



mighty mac

it's beary clean

(843)842-3994

Travertine Stone

Travertine is in the Limestone 'family', as is Marble. It has become a very popular flooring option during the last decade. It is fairly inexpensive when compared to marble, slate or other stone alternatives. Limestone is a soft, white, porous stone. Over eons soils and minerals suspended in the water seeps through and are deposited in the stone. This hardens the stone and the distinctive colors are dependent on the type and color of the soils and minerals that have filtered through. Travertine comes in 12 inch, 18 inch and larger squares. Generally, the larger the stone the more expensive it is.

Travertine vs. Marble: Travertine is usually a white and brown stone where Marble is white with minor dark veining. Again, this marbling is due to the minerals and soils that flowed through it. The other major difference is that Marble is solid and Travertine still has holes in it where the water has been running through. The fewer holes a stone has, the more expensive it is.

Fill: Since Travertine has holes in it, they are filled with light colored cement during the manufacturing process. Dog nails, women's spike heeled shoes and dropped items can cause the fill to pop out of place. Replacing popped fill holes can be a costly proposition and having them match the original color can be difficult.

Sheen: Many people ask us how can we get a better sheen, or more gloss, to the travertine. The easy answer is you do not want to. The Marble portion of the stone is harder and usually lighter in color, will polish nicely. The problem is the darker 'soil' portions and cement fill areas will not polish. The contrast between the shiny and dull sections makes it look like there are blotchy spills or etching, especially if viewed at an angle with background light, such as from a window. It is best if left in a matte state.

Sealer/protectant: Virtually all stone is sealed prior to installation. It is a 'penetrating' sealer that is absorbed into the stone. Subsequent application of a sealer is not recommended, as it will result in a fogged and blotchy look to the stone.

Cleaning: It is imperative you clean up spills as quickly as possible. Follow with a rinsing in the area of the spill to remove any residue. There are specific stone cleaners on the market for the do-it-yourselfer. Usually damp mopping with lukewarm water is adequate. If you must use a detergent, use a MILD neutral (pH 7) one. Do NOT use strong alkalines (Spic N Span) or acids (vinegar) to clean your floor. You will cause etching!



Etching: Acidic products like coffee, soft drinks, wine, orange juice and vinegar will etch the surface of the stone. Any spill not quickly cleaned up and rinsed will leave a dull area and ring where the spill occurred. The only way to remove this is by buffing or honing. Mighty Mac provides this service. The photos show a before and after honing for etching caused by an orange juice spill.

