

PRODUCT PROFILE

TRAVERTINE: A CLASSICAL BEAUTY

What you will learn: origins of travertine; appearance of travertine; applications of travertine as a building material; types of cuts and finish for travertine.

The creamy richness of travertine, the porous decorative stone that was used as a building material as long ago as the rise of Western civilization in ancient Greece, can lend some of the traditions of classical appeal to your interior or exterior space, whether in a residential setting or commercial application. For your own imperial tastes, travertine may be the natural stone tile for you....

In addition to marble, slate, and granite, travertine has long been a popular material for stone tile flooring. It even has a rich history that runs parallel to the development of Western civilization itself. Travertine is a type of limestone composed of a material called calcium carbonate which is produced from deposits built up over time from rivers, springs, and other subterranean water sources. The resultant stone is a smooth, porous, naturally decorative material which offers a soft cream hue, an overall old-world beauty, and a dense and durable surface. Travertine is most commonly used for building materials in Italy, and rich deposits of travertine are also common to Turkey and surrounding regions.

Variations in cut for travertine

Travertine can be cut on either a “vein” cut, which is against the bedding so the bedding plane is revealed, or a “fleuri” cut, which is along the bedding plane and reveals a flowery, often circular pattern. This cut is also referred to as a “crosscut” pattern. The distinctive holes and cavities in the travertine are formed by gas that escapes during the stone’s formation. These small pits may be filled with matching Portland cement, colored epoxy, or polyester resins.

Some of the finishes available on travertine are:

Tumbled: This stone is tumbled with sand, pebbles, or steel bearings to create a weathered, aged finish to the travertine.

Filled: Natural travertine comes with pores or small holes where gases were once trapped. These holes are usually filled in with cement in order to create a uniform surface.

Unfilled: The natural finish of the stone is unfilled, leaving the pores and holes in the travertine exposed.

Regardless of the type of surface to be maintained, all travertine tile should be protected with a sealer.

Travertine is well established as a dependable type of natural stone, one that is extremely well-suited for flooring. From the Roman Coliseum built in the ancient world to the Getty Center in Los Angeles, travertine has been a part of human progress for millennia. In choosing travertine, you are not only gaining the benefit of a dependable and beautiful natural stone tile – you are playing a part in continuing its splendid history.

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ABOUT TRAVERTINE TILE

Travertine is a form of limestone with unique porous veins that give the milled tile their beauty. The stone is found in a wide variety of natural colors, and four different finishes may be applied to individual tiles. Travertine has long been used in many of the most beautiful buildings in the world. Today, in addition to being an excellent flooring material, travertine tiles may also be used as pavers, countertops, stair treads, columns, sinks, and even bathtubs.

Product Perception

Italian travertine and marble is generally perceived to be of the highest quality because the quarries and manufacturing centers are well established. Turkey has a large amount of travertine and is home to many of the most skilled quarries in the world. Brazilian travertine is thought to be of a lower quality, followed by the stone quarried in Mexico, mostly due to the lower quality of workmanship. Natural stone derived from limestone, such as travertine, is perceived to be a luxury item and is used in residential and commercial spaces to achieve a visual effect that communicates success, good taste, and affluence. However, because the stone is porous, the possibility of staining is present. This has led to the overall perception that travertine is a luxurious surface that lacks practicality. Fortunately, modern methods of milling and sealing the stone make staining much less worrisome leaving one with simply the aspect of luxury.

Travertine Benefits

Travertine provides a durable surface with a proven history of longevity.

Travertine provides additional structural strength to property.

The natural travertine colors and patterns vary from surface to surface making each installment unique.

Natural stone increases the resale value of properties.

Travertine instills a sense of pride in ownership, because of its authenticity.

Popular Applications

- [Flooring – Travertine](#) can be used in entrances, hallways, foyers, as well as living spaces.
- Wall Cladding – Travertine can be used in exterior and interior spaces.
- Shower Stalls
- Pavers
- Fixtures

Check Out These Resources

Are you looking for flooring with a unique pattern? We have put together a number of informative resources to help you decide if travertine flooring is right for you. Tile flooring is one of the most durable available, so making the right decision is critical.

- [Types](#) – Learn about the different types of travertine
- [Buying Guide](#) – Learn how to make an informed travertine tile purchase decision
- [Installation Guide](#) – Learn how to install travertine tile
- [Cleaning & Care](#) – Find out how easy it is to care for a travertine floor
- [Glossary](#) – Familiarize yourself with common travertine tile terms