

TRAVERTINE TILE F.A.Q.

What is travertine?

Travertine belongs to the larger family of stone called limestone also known as Calcium Carbonate. Travertine is also a type of limestone that has had additional heat and pressure applied to it by the earth's crust. Travertine is formed by minerals dissolving in ground water and then being deposited on the earth's surface by rivers, natural springs, or geysers.

What colors does travertine come in?

Travertine comes in many different colors including beige, brown, gray, and gold. There may also be slight undertones of green, red, rust, and natural, depending on the origin of the stone and the minerals inherent in the specific selection. The color of travertine is the result of iron compounds or other organic impurities.

What does the finished surface of travertine look like?

Travertine can have four main finishes, polished (shiny), honed (matte), brushed, and tumbled (textured surfaces). The type of finish given to the travertine will determine how shiny the surface will be. The polished and honed surfaces are flat and smooth, while the brushed and tumbled surfaces are flat and textured. The polished surface is the shiniest, while the tumbled surface reflects the least amount of light. The most common finish for travertine is honed.

Where would I use travertine?

Travertine has been used in the construction of buildings for thousands of years. In today's construction, travertine is used for flooring, wall cladding on buildings, showers, wall coverings and counter tops.

What should I consider in using travertine?

All Travertine is a porous product that comes naturally with holes/pores. These pores allow for efficient heat transfer but does not retain heat and also keeps the stone cool to the touch. The styles in this line come with pores that are filled with a cement based filler prior to the Honing finish. These fillers will eventually remove over time, depending on wear and traffic.

BuildDirect recommends using a cement based grout or filler to refill these pores and reseal your tile if you find that the original filler has worn through. Being a natural stone of the earth, the variation and frequency of these pores will vary. We have done our best to sort, select, and grade these tiles to the appropriate standards.

How durable is Travertine Tile?

Travertine has been counted on for centuries by cultures across the globe to last as flooring, wall tile, and other surfaces. Although travertine is susceptible to acidic substances and metal abrasion, it remains to be a surface to be counted on to look great for years, given that a cleaning and maintenance regimen is incorporated to make sure it retains its original look. Sealing the surface of travertine with an impregnator can help to do this, and to make maintenance a much easier job.

Are sealers really necessary?

Absolutely. Travertine is a porous material, which means that any liquids which spill onto the surface tend to leech into the body of the travertine. This can negatively affect how your travertine will look over time. A sealer, or an impregnator as it is also known, can make sure that any materials remain on the surface of the tile, until you clean it off, of course. This is the best way to make sure that your travertine retains its original look for as long as possible. Talk to your local outlet about which products to use and how long to leave them before sealing your tile again. Always read the labels of the products you buy, take safety precautions where necessary, and follow instructions carefully.

TRAVERTINE TILE F.A.Q.

What sizes are Travertine tiles available for travertine tile from BuildDirect?

Standard Travertine tile sizes include: 12"x12"x3/8", 18"x18"x1/2", 12"x24"x1/2", 24"x24"x1/2".

How do I obtain travertine samples?

BuildDirect can send you up to five stone samples for free. Sample pieces are approximately 6"x6".

What are the volumes shipped by BuildDirect?

BuildDirect ships travertine tile in two three volumes: by boxes, by pallets, or by containers.

What is the minimum pallet order for travertine tile?

Typically the minimum order is set to around 100 Square Feet (or 8-10 boxes). This enables our shipping efficiency in getting the product to you faster and cost-effective while ensuring as little breakage in transit as possible. Building materials are heavy and will require proper equipment or labour to accept goods on delivery. Please check the weight of your goods before they are delivered so that you are properly prepared to receive the delivery.

How much does a pallet of travertine contain?

Pallet volumes start at 333 sq ft. and go up to 359 sq ft. depending on the size and thickness of the tile.

How much does a container hold?

Container volumes start at 5,000 sq ft. and go up to 7,500 sq ft. depending on the size and thickness of the tile.

I need a smaller amount of tile than your minimum – where do I go from here?

Please call one of our sales associates to help you with your request.

I would like to see the pallets before I buy them. Is this possible?

Unfortunately, we are unable to show you the product at the warehouse. The warehouses we use are privately owned facilities and all products are in factory- sealed crates. We suggest ordering a sample and reviewing the product photos graphics on the website.

How much breakage should I expect with an order?

It is not unusual to have 2% - 3% of the tile broken to some degree (e.g. chipped edges). Any amount up to 10% is still considered acceptable. These damaged tiles can be used for the cuts you will need to make. If breakage is above 10%, we would ask you to have it noted on the logistics receiving document and take pictures. Please make a claim with us within 10 days of receiving the order.

What's the best way to keep travertine tile clean?

The best way to keep travertine clean is to incorporate removal of dirt, grit, and other materials that are tracked in from outdoors. Many of these substances can cause minute scratches on the surface of your travertine which can become noticeable over time. So, it's best to make sure that the surface of the travertine is clear with a damp cloth, soft broom, or vacuum as regularly as you can. Clean up liquid spills immediately, particularly if they are acidic in nature. Fruit juice is particularly problematic, as is coffee and red wine, because of their tendency to stain. Even if you've sealed your travertine, it's a good idea not to take any chances. Clear spills right away. Don't use bleach, vinegar, or any harsh acidic-based cleaners as these will degrade the surface of your travertine over time.

TRAVERTINE TILE F.A.Q.

What's the best way of removing stains?

When a stain is unavoidable, taking steps to remove stains from travertine tile is a fairly simple procedure. The same reason travertine is susceptible to staining is the same reason it's a straightforward process to remove them – travertine is porous. A procedure called 'poulticing' is a great way to remove stains by literally drawing the stain up from your travertine and into another material – a mixture of a reducing agent soaked into a cloth or papertowels is the most basic variety of poultice. The best methods should always be measured against the kind of stain you've got. Once again, the best source of knowledge on this is your local DIY retailer who can advise on what procedure to use on what types of materials which have stained your travertine.