



PRODUCT SPECIFICATION

Natural Stone

Installation & Care Guide.

Travertine — French Pattern (Opus)

Outdoor Installation Instructions,
Maintenance & Care Recommendations.

Installation Instructions.

1. Pre-Installation — Blending Material

Natural travertine exhibits inherent variation in colour, veining and surface pores. These are product features, not defects.

- Open multiple pallets simultaneously before laying.
- Blend tiles from different pallets to avoid concentrations of similar colour or veining, achieving a more natural, balanced result.

2. French Pattern Layout

Verify the French Pattern (Opus) layout and size combinations before you begin. Incorrect sequencing of the four tile sizes results in mismatched joints that cannot be corrected after adhesive has set.

3. Drainage Slope

Maintain the correct fall (minimum 1:100 for outdoor areas) away from structures. Standing water causes mineral deposits, efflorescence and staining over time.

4. Adhesive Selection

Use a polymer-modified mortar mix or dedicated natural stone adhesive. Do **not** use standard cement on its own.

Avoid dark-coloured adhesives — dark pigments can bleed through porous travertine and permanently stain the face of the stone.

5. Natural Characteristics

The following are normal features of travertine — **not** quality defects:

- Small surface pores and voids
- Variation in veining and texture
- Colour variation between tiles

6. Sealing After Installation

Seal the stone after installation to reduce stain penetration and simplify maintenance. Allow the installation to cure fully before applying sealer.

Sealer options:

- **Budget:** Bunnings-brand sealers — cost-effective, shorter durability.
- **Premium:** Italian / German brands from tile specialty stores — longer lasting.

Sealer type:

- **Oil-based:** Deepens colour, 'wet look' finish, longer durability.
- **Water-based:** Preserves natural matte appearance, slightly shorter service life.

All sealed stone requires periodic resealing. Inspect annually.

7. Cleaning Products — Avoid

- Hydrochloric (muriatic) acid
- Acidic tile or grout cleaners
- High-concentration bleach

Always use a pH-neutral stone cleaner for routine cleaning.

8. Adhesive Residue

Remove adhesive or mortar from the stone face immediately while still wet. Cured adhesive in travertine pores is extremely difficult to remove without damaging the surface.

9. Filling Holes (Optional)

Dilute grout slightly and work into surface voids. Suitable products: Mapei grout, Ardex grout.

10. General Reminder

Colour, texture, pore distribution and surface variation are inherent characteristics of natural stone. Install, seal and maintain in accordance with industry standards for the best long-term result.

Maintenance and Cleaning.

Like any surface, stone requires a degree of maintenance. Correct sealing from the start is the key to minimal upkeep. Heavily trafficked areas will require more attention than those seldom used.

Routine Cleaning.

The main maintenance regime is regular sweeping and vacuuming. The floor should also be mopped regularly with a neutral cleaner formulated specifically for tiles and natural stone.

- Sweep or blow off loose dirt and leaves regularly.
- Mop with warm water and a pH-neutral stone cleaner.
- Rinse with clean water and allow to dry.
- Do not allow cleaning solution to dry on the surface.

The use of abrasive, acidic or alkali household detergents should be avoided — they can remove the surface sealant or in extreme cases damage the stone.

Stain Management.

Act quickly. Blot liquid spills immediately rather than wiping, to avoid spreading. For stubborn stains use a poultice appropriate to the stain type — oil-based, organic or rust. Follow manufacturer's instructions.

Resealing.

- Test annually: drop water on the surface — if it absorbs within 30 seconds, reseal.
- High-traffic outdoor areas: every 1–2 years.
- Sheltered or low-traffic areas: every 3–5 years.

Clean the surface thoroughly and allow to dry completely before resealing.

Efflorescence.

White powdery deposits are caused by soluble salts migrating upward with moisture, more common in the first year after installation.

- Dry-brush deposits away — do not wet them first.
- Improve drainage if standing water is contributing to the issue.
- Use a pH-neutral efflorescence remover if dry brushing is insufficient.

Do not use acid-based efflorescence removers on travertine.

Accredited Cleaners & Sealers.

Always use accredited sealers and cleaners. Recommended brands:

- **Aqua Mix** — aquamix.com.au

- **Environex** — environex.net.au
- **Mapei** — mapei.com.au
- **Ardex** — ardex.com.au

All tips and guidelines should be taken as general advice and used in addition to the relevant Australian standards. These are given in good faith and do not replace the service of professional contractors or consultants.