



November 2014

### **Travertine Stone Important Information**

Natural stone is of timeless quality and beauty quarried from ancient spa areas all over the world. Stone is a product of nature and no two pieces will be exactly alike. Some stones have occasional pits, sand holes, fossils, geological flaws, voids, veins and lines of separation.

We specialize in cross cut travertine. Our stone is available in sawcut, honed & unfilled or with a tumbled finish.

#### **Sawcut Characteristics**

Sawcut characteristics on stone are saw marks, rust marks and shiny stripes that can be present due to the nature of production. This will even out through foot traffic and age or can be sanded by the tiler or finisher. Quarried stone is not rectified and may vary 1-3mm in size or thickness. This texture provides an excellent non slip surface.

**HELPFUL TIP – THE HIGHER THE TRAFFIC AREA, THE FASTER THE NATURAL PATINA WILL DEVELOP.**

CSIRO Slip Resistance Test for sawcut and unfilled travertine

Wet pendulum Test: Class V/ R11

Interpretation of class: Contribution of floor surface to risk of slipping when wet = very low.

#### **Stone Inspection**

Stone inspection is recommended. Orders can be sighted at our warehouse prior to collection or delivery. The appearance of the uninstalled stone as it comes out of the crates is very different from the finished installation. Laying, grouting and sealing all enhance the stone's colour.

#### **Installation**

The tiler should mix the tiles as they come out of the crate. If there is more than one crate, tiles should be taken randomly and mixed as they are laid. The tiler is to lay the best side up. For high traffic areas we recommend tiles be installed that have less cavities. It is normal for some tiles to have chipped edges or more rustic character. These pieces should be used for cutting.



**Please note:**

INSTALLATION CONSTITUTES ACCEPTANCE OF THE MATERIAL. NO CLAIMS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER INSTALLATION.

**Freeze/thaw areas, underfloor heating**

Crosscut stone may be installed in freeze/thaw areas and throughout commercial and residential areas. The stone may also be laid where under floor heating is installed.

**Grouting**

Tiles are installed with a 2-3mm joint. A slurry grout is required to fill the open holes and normal grout joints. The excess grout is wiped off with a sponge and clean water to remove the residue from the surface. A 20kg bag of grout covers approximately 20m<sup>2</sup>.

Occasional collapses of small interior caverns may occur during the settling process and may be brought on by stiletto heels or commercial traffic. These can easily be refilled with grout.

PRIOR TO GROUTING WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND A GROUT COLOUR TEST BE CARRIED OUT ON YOUR TILE CHOICE.

**Grout Haze**

Grout haze is not unusual after installation. The haze does wear off with foot traffic and cleaning. However to minimize grout haze we suggest the tiler applies one coat of Sealers Choice prior to grouting. For the final rinse use Grout Haze Cleanup mixed with water. Should grout haze still be evident after the initial clean up, scrub with hot water using a white scouring pad.

**Sealing Stone**

This is recommended in all areas to provide stain resistance and easy going maintenance. Without a sealer, porous stone and tile will stain almost instantly.

Sealers although not impenetrable, work by providing reaction time to enable you to remove the offending contaminant from penetrating deep into the stone. Wine, fruits, some vegetable juices, oils and vinegar etc will mark the stone surface.

Aquamix Sealers Choice is a water based premium, no sheen, natural look, penetrating sealer formulated to provide maximum stain resistance, especially in food preparation and service areas and grout. Sealers Choice can be used as a pre grouting sealer over clean stone surfaces a minimum of 1 hour prior to grouting.

Average coverage is 20m<sup>2</sup> per litre ( 1 coat)

HELPFUL TIP – A 2 MINUTE WATER BEAD TEST WILL DETERMINE IF STONE IS SEALED.



### **Stone Slabs for Kitchen and Bathroom Bench Tops**

This is a great option. The density of the stone makes it less porous and the natural variations hide some stains that occur with cooking and everyday living.

Food acids found in fruits and wine will etch the stone surface if left to sit, however a touch up with oil will remove the etched surface.

### **Vegetable Oil as a Natural Sealer**

This is an option to protect your bench tops. Many of our clients have used this and are pleased with the result. Be aware that using oil will enrich the colour of the stone. Bench tops should be scrubbed down periodically with Aquamix Stone Deep Clean and re-oiled, then left overnight. In the morning remove excess oil with paper towel.

### **Sealer**

Use Aquamix Sealers Choice applying 2 coats. This will give a natural look and will not enrich the colour of the stone. This will last up to 10 years without reapplication.

**HELPFUL TIP – IF DISASTER STRIKES IN THE FORM OF A CHILD WITH A BLACK MARKER OR RED NAIL POLISH, THE STONE MAY BE SANDED WITH VERY FINE WHITE WET AND DRY SANDPAPER.**

### **Cleaning**

We recommend vacuuming or dry mopping stone in living areas and spot cleaning where necessary on floors and bench tops using Aquamix Concentrated Tile and Stone Cleaner diluted with water or other PH neutral detergents.

Where build up may occur with heavy use, we recommend Aquamix Stone Deep Clean used with a white nylon pad and water to remove grease and soap scum without affecting the sealer.

### **Do not use harsh or abrasive cleaners or acid on stone.**

Aeria Country Floors can provide a list of independent applicators for professional care and maintenance of your stone floors.

For further technical information, contact Construction Technologies Australia on 02 9674 1004.

### **Salt Water Pool Disclaimer**

The natural stone is not classed as salt water pool proof. However clients who are willing to seal tiles at the beginning of each swimming season, and hose tiles down after heavy use, have had successful results.



**BEFORE YOU LAY YOUR TILES PLEASE NOTE:**

Please check your tiles to make sure they are what you ordered. If there is any concern regarding the quantity, size, colour, shade or variation of batch, the tiles must not be laid.

If a defect is discovered whilst the tiles are being laid, work must stop immediately and your supplier must be contacted.

Prior to laying tiles the homeowner, tiler or builder must:

- Inspect tiles for any defect
- Check that the tiles delivered to site are the correct quantity, colour, shade and size as ordered or selected.
- Check that the shades are consistent through the batch delivered.
- Ensure that there are enough tiles on site for the project. If not order some more of the same batch before work commences.

During laying we suggest:

- Mixing tiles from several boxes to ensure blending of any inherent shade variation.
- Always clean any adhesive, grout and wax from the surface of the tiles.
- If sealing is required, make sure that the tiles are thoroughly cleaned before sealing.

**Please note:** Australian standards define acceptable variation imperfections allowable in any batch. Claims for defects, size, shade variation and incorrect delivery and other fault that should have been reasonably obvious before laying was carried out, will not be accepted.