



Cleaning and Care for Travertine Tiles

Coating with sealers and/or impregnators is required to minimize stains and scratches. Sealers are protective coatings. Impregnators penetrate below the surface and become repellents. Impregnators are usually water repelling but are also oil repelling. Impregnators keep contaminants out but do not stop interior moisture from escaping.

Floors

Vacuum or sweep the area first, then dust mop interior floors frequently using a clean, non-treated, dry dust mop. Periodic maintenance involves mopping with clean, potable water and neutral and mildly abrasive (pH 7) cleaners. Soap-less cleaners are recommended because they minimize filming and streaking.

Bath & Wet Areas

Soap scum can be minimized by using a squeegee after each use. To remove soap scum, use a non-acidic soap scum remover or a solution of ammonia and water (about 1/2 cup ammonia to a gallon of water). Frequent or overuse of an ammonia solution may eventually dull the surface of the stone.

Spills and Stains

Blot up the spill with a paper towel immediately. Flush the area with water & mild soap and rinse several times. Dry the area thoroughly with a soft cloth.

Oil based (grease, tar, cooking oil, milk, & food stains): Clean with scouring powder with bleach, liquid cleanser with bleach, household detergent, ammonia, or mineral spirits (flammable).

Organic (tea, coffee, cosmetics, fruit, tobacco, & urine): Clean with 12% hydrogen peroxide directly on the stain and add a few drops of ammonia. Leave until bubbling stops.

Copper & Metal: Use poultice with ammonium chloride or ammonium hydroxide.

Biological (mildew, algae, lichens, moss, & fungi): Clean with dilute ammonia (1/2 cup in a gallon of water), bleach, or hydrogen peroxide.

Efflorescence (white powdery layer of film on surface of travertine): If the installation is new, dust mop or vacuum the powder. Repeat as necessary as the stone dries out. If the problem persists use the poultice with distilled water or contact the contractor to identify and remove the cause of the moisture.

DO NOT MIX BLEACH AND AMMONIA. Do not ever mix chemicals together unless following instructions specifically directing you to do so.

DO NOT USE lemon juice, vinegar or other cleansers containing acids such as bathroom cleaners, grout cleaners, or tub & tile cleaners.

CALL A PROFESSIONAL STONE RESTORER FOR REFINISHING OR REHONING THE STAINED AREAS THAT YOU CANNOT REMOVE