

Unfilled travertine in shower stall

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I know that unfilled/tumbled travertine needs to be filled if I am to use it in the bathroom, but I'm trying to find out if I can use regular unsanded grout, or if I need to use another specific product. I know you recommend using sanded grout between the tiles to maintain the rustic look, but is there any structural reason to do so? If I could do just one grouting application with unsanded grout to fill the holes and the joints at the same time, it would be my preference. Also, I'm assuming we need to tint the grout? How? I hesitate to trust the people at tile stores because of the misinformation one generally gets from them... Thank you so much for all the info you provide on the website, and any insight you can provide me personally. Cheers, Melissa

Dear Melissa:

Unsanded grout will not fill many smaller holes.

œ I know you recommend using sanded grout between the tiles to maintain the rustic look, but is there any structural reason to do so? •

No particular structural reason. Well, yes, it becomes a structural issue if you leave a grout gap more than 1/8". In that case, you do need sanded grout.

Now, it seems to me like you're about to do the install yourself. If that's the case, why don't you take your time and do things righter than right?

Let me tell you what I would do if it were my own shower.

First off, the reason why I'd choose unfilled travertine is because I like the look of the holes. So, why get rid of that look, if it possible to preserve it?

I would therefore proceed to fill the holes in the loose tiles " before installation " with clear silicone. And even if my wife decides that she prefer color-matching filler, I would still use latex-based siliconized caulk of the color to match.

Nothing beats that stuff as filler: water-proof, stain-less and mildew resistant.

After that I would install the pre-filled tiles and would let my wife decide on the grout gap. Within 1/8" it would be sand-less grout. More than that it would be sanded. J

Now remember, it's never too early to think about the proper maintenance of your stone. **The issue of what you'll be doing day in and day out to your stone is " as it should be intuitive " vastly more important than its sealing** (if and when possible and/or advisable) and it's all too often neglected. As you can tell by reading many of this site's

postings, you're not likely to get good information about routine care from your dealer or installer. Don't become another statistic! By logging into the Helpful Hints section of our website at: [___](#)

http://www.mbstone.com/HH_promo/helpful_hints.htm , you will be able to get the short version of our maintenance guidelines at no charge. The full version of it â€” a 7-page document considered by many as an industry benchmark â€” is available in pay-per-download format in our Educational Literature section at: <http://www.mbstone.com/literature/literature.htm> .

And remember, every single penny of the cost of the literature will be used to support this site and its cause: **your** cause.

While you are in the â€œHelpful Hintsâ€” section, do spend some time reading all of the interesting FREE articles you'll find in there!

Finally, keep in mind that we need your support to help us helping you!

Will you please read and e-sign our Statement of Purpose at: <http://www.marblecleaning.org/purpose.htm?>

By spreading the word about this valuable site among your friend & family and the stone trades' people you've been dealing with, you will be rendering everybody a valuable service!

Thank you

Ciao and good luck,

Mauri zio Bertoli

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