

Travertine around the house

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I am considering laying travertine tiles on my entrance hall, kitchen and bathroom floors also on the walls of the bathroom/shower room. I have been informed that travertine stains and needs special care. I am happy to do this as I love it. My problem is knowing what to do at the intalation stage to get the best from the travertine especially in the shower area. I have ben bombarded with advice to seal and wax. Also what is the best type of tile to choose high polished or just honed. Do I need to treat unpolished with sealers and waxes and leave polished alone? I am insatlling over electric underfloor heating and am a little concerned that I may get cracked tiles over time. Any help would be greatly appreciated before I take the plunge or change my mind because I am basically a bit scared. Thank you in advance. Wendy uk

Dear Wendy:

â€œ I have been informed that travertine stains and needs special care. â€•

Correction:

â€œ I have been ***misinformed*** that travertine stains and needs special care. â€•

Travertine seldom and only under extreme circumstances stains, and it doesn't require a care any different than other natural stones. Actually, less care than many delicate stones.

â€œ My problem is knowing what to do at the intalation stage to get the best from the travertine especially in the shower area. â€•

Indeed, installing stone tile properly in a shower stall is paramount. Even the best stone will fail miserably if not installed properly in a shower stall.

â€œ I have ben bombarded with advice to seal and wax. â€•

Hmmmâ€¦ It sounds like they may have forgotten to recommend you to sacrifice a goat to â€œthe gods of the sealing cultâ€• as part of the â€œsealing ritualâ€•. Now, we wouldn't want to forget that, would we?!... J

â€œAlso what is the best type of tile to choose high polished or just honed. â€•

Very definitely honed & filled tiles across the board would be best. Too bad that you wouldn't be able to wax thoseâ€! Oh well, I reckon that one can't have anything in life, can one?!... J

â€œDo I need to treat unpolished with sealers and waxes and leave polished alone? â€•

Well, honed & filled can't be waxed, of course. Sealed?... Maybe. But then again, why? You do not want to seal it inside a shower stall anyway â€" that's for sure. At best I would consider applying an impregnator (that is what the â€œministersâ€• of the â€œsealing cultâ€• call sealer, so they can sell it much better) only on the kitchen floor.

â€œI am installing over electric underfloor heating and am a little concerned that I may get cracked tiles over time. â€•

If everything is done right, there will be no cracks. If you will eventually experience cracks, blame it on the setter â€" not the stone or the under-floor heating element.

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

Ciao and good luck,

Maurizio Bertoli

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