

How to Ensure the Best Results When Installing Natural Stone Tiles

Achieving a flawless outcome when installing natural stone tiles starts with preparation, understanding the material, and using the proper techniques. Below is a comprehensive guide to help ensure your natural stone tiles are installed seamlessly and maintain their beauty for years to come.

Important Facts about Natural Stone

Natural stone like marble, limestone, and travertine is unique, offering variations in colour and veining that add character to the material. These differences are inherent and expected, making each piece distinctive. Here's how to handle and install these materials carefully for the best results.

Note: Some Natural Stone need Pre-Sealing (softer or more porous stones). If un-sure please reach out to ACM Blocks, Pavers & Stone for assistance

Must Read Before Tiling

Taking the right steps before installation is crucial. Follow these precautions to set yourself up for success:

Understand Natural Stone Variations

- Marble, limestone, and travertine are natural materials, and variations in shade, veining, and texture are normal. These should not be considered defects.
- Always inspect your materials upon delivery to ensure they meet expectations.

Inspect Tiles Before Installation

- Verify that the delivered tiles are free of defects.
- Confirm you have the correct quantity, colour, shade, and size as per your order.
- Check batch consistency to ensure harmonious shading across the tiles.

Stock Enough Tiles

- Order extra tiles from the same batch to cover the entire project. This is vital for consistent colour and shade, especially if cutting or replacements are required.

Hire Professionals

- Natural stone requires advanced expertise for proper installation. Always hire experienced tilers or stonemasons who understand the intricacies of natural stone. Avoid unnecessary risks caused by inexperience

Blend Tiles for Uniformity

- Mix tiles from multiple boxes / crates to create a seamless blend of patterns and shades, avoiding unsightly patches of uneven colour.

Use Specialized Adhesives

- Always use adhesives specifically designed for natural stone. General-purpose adhesives can damage the material or compromise the finish.
- Consult adhesive manufacturers for recommendations specific to your type of stone.

Clean as You Work

- Promptly remove excess adhesive, grout & unknown materials from the stone surface during installation. Allowing materials to sit can lead to permanent staining or damage.

Avoid Harmful Materials

- Never use adhesives, sand, or cement containing salt, as these can react with the stone.
- Do not use acid-based industrial cleaners, as they can erode or discolour the stone.

Consult Experts for Glue

- For each type of stone, consult manufacturers or suppliers regarding the best adhesive. Proper guidance can prevent issues with adhesion or durability

Seal the Stone

- Natural stone is porous and requires sealing to prevent staining and moisture absorption. Choose a sealer suitable for your specific stone type. We recommend Chemforce products and can assist you finding the right sealer for your Natural Stone
- The sealing process typically follows one of two methods:
 - **Option 1:** Lay, clean, seal, grout, clean, and seal again (ideal for most natural stones).
 - **Option 2:** Pre-seal, lay, clean, grout, clean, and seal again (needed for softer or more porous stones).
- If un-sure what option you need, please contact ACM Blocks, Pavers & Stone before installation and we would be happy to assist.
- Be sure to apply sealants correctly for maximum effectiveness. Sealers typically last 10–15 years but may require inspection and re-sealing every 3–5 years depending on usage and traffic.

Check if Pre-Sealing is required

- Some stones may require pre-sealing before installation. Consult with your supplier to determine if this step is necessary.

Maintain Regularly

- Avoid harsh chemicals or acid-based products when cleaning natural stone. Use pH-neutral cleaners designed specifically for stone materials. We recommend Chemforce products and can assist you finding the right cleaning solution for your Natural Stone

Follow Up with Sealing

- Regular maintenance and inspections will keep your stone looking new. If wear and tear affect the sealant, re-seal the stone as needed to maintain its protective layer.

Additional Notes

ACM Blocks, Pavers & Stone provides expert recommendations on top-quality cleaning and sealant products, including trusted brands like Chemforce. These products are readily available to ensure your outdoor spaces remain pristine and well-maintained, whenever you need them.

Please understand that ACM Blocks, Pavers & Stone is not liable for variations in material or any issues arising from installation, fixing, grouting, cleaning, or maintenance. The responsibility lies with the homeowner, tilers, and builders to ensure proper procedures are followed.

By following the above steps, you'll not only enhance the visual appeal of your natural stone tiles but also ensure they withstand the test of time. Proper inspection, installation, and maintenance make all the difference.