

Travertine Selection: Good, Better, Best

Dimensioning and Calibration

- Dimension tolerances
- Flatness tolerances
- Moldings, washes, and drips
 - Consistent in profile throughout their entire length

These issues make it possible or not possible for the installer to do an excellent, straight, and level installation.

Backs of Pieces

- What it looks like on the back is very close to what it looked like on the finished side before it was filled and honed.
- Holes are not the issue, solid structure and finish work determines the quality.

Proper Finish

- Polished finish cannot be faked.
- Honed should be smooth and flat like glass, but is often faked.
 - The benefit or lack thereof is clean-ability and appearance.
 - Abrasive wear will cause traffic patterns if the surface is not fully honed.

Aesthetics

- Color, movement, hole size
- Many travertines are wild and even seeing 1,000 pieces of these types will not give you all of the possibilities.

Samples

- Natural stone will vary in aesthetic value & product quality even within the same quarry.
- Travertine presents more variation than any other natural stone.
 - Vein trend
 - Texture
 - Incidence of holes, color of fill
 - Range mockup
- Customer should always request a range of samples before installation.
- If order is multiple pallets, pieces should be mixed from all pallets.



This handout was developed as a reference tool for Basics of Travertine Fabrication, Selection, Applications, & Maintenance presentation as developed by Natural Stone Institute's Education Committee.
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