What is Travertine?

Travertine is a natural stone such as Marble, Granite, Onyx, Limestone, Slate etc. The key difference between Travertine and other natural stones lies in the formation of the rock, the hardness of the stone and the appearance. Travertine is formed in hot springs and/or limestone caves. **Travertine is not the same as Marble or Limestone** which falls in the metamorphic rock category. Key characteristics of Travertine stone are the holes within the stone which are caused by carbon dioxide evasion.

What is a Travertine Quarry?

A travertine quarry is nothing more than a mine for Travertine stone. Most quarries are huge and look like open large pits. Travertine rocks are dug up in quarries and broken down into travertine blocks which are then transported to factories for the purpose of cutting. After cutting the blocks into slabs, tiles, pavers, mosaics etc. the proper Travertine finish is applied.
How is Travertine imported into the USA?

Most of the Travertine found in the USA comes directly with ships from Turkey in form of containers. There are many ocean freight services which transport this material across the Atlantic ocean. It takes the ships approx. 6 weeks to arrive from Turkey. 95% of the Travertine containers arrive at the Port of Miami. Next they are distributed from the port to several different warehouses and wholesalers via freight forwarders.

What is the difference between premium grade travertine, commercial grade or A grade?

The grade of travertine is most of the time determined based on the holes within the stone. Holes within Travertine stone are part of the stones nature and criteria. Within the travertine industry today, the rule of the thumb is **the less holes there are within travertine stone, the higher the quality.** Travertine pavers with barely any holes in it are considered A Grade or Premium Grade quality while porous stone with a lot of holes in it (looking like a sponge) is considered commercial quality. Obviously price differences apply. Also keep in mind that there are Travertine tiles which come with a honed and filled finish. A filled travertine finish indicates that the holes were filled. Since the filling is always the same color throughout the tile it is fairly easy to tell apart the filling. In these cases, the difference between Premium Grade and Commercial grade lies in the amount of
filling used. A honed and filled travertine tile with a whole lot of filling is considered of lower quality compared to a tile with minimal filling.

What is the difference between Travertine Tiles and Travertine Pavers?

Travertine Tiles are used for indoor projects such as floors and walls while Travertine pavers are primarily used for outdoors such as driveways, pool decks, patio areas and walk ways. Travertine tiles are 0.5” thick while the standard thickness for Travertine pavers is 1 1/4”.
What is a Travertine French Pattern Set?

A Travertine french pattern set covers exactly 8 sqf and consists of the following pieces. 1 piece 16x24, 2 pieces 16x16, 1 piece 16x8 and 2 pieces 8x8. The french pattern set is often referred to as Versailles Pattern or Leonardo Pattern and exists for Tiles and Pavers.

Which pieces do Travertine Jumbo Patterns consist of?

A travertine jumbo pattern carries the following sizes: 24x36", 24x24", 18x24", 18x18"

Which colors do Travertine Tiles, Pavers, Mosaics etc. come in?

Some of the most popular colors are Ivory, Beige, Walnut colors (light, medium, dark), Noche (Dark brown), Silver and Gold. Combinations of these colors are also
possible. Colors variations and color name variations are quite common within the Travertine industry i.e. Cream, Cappuccino, Chocolate

What finish is applied to Travertine Products?

Travertine products usually have the following finishes: Tumbled, Honed, Brushed, Filled, Filled & Honed, Chiseled, Bush Hammered, Polished Chiseled Travertine refers to the edges while all the other finishes refer to the actual surface. Combinations are also possible such as Chiseled & Honed, Chiseled & Brushed or Honed & Filled & Chiseled.
How thick is a Travertine Tile?

A standard travertine tile is 0.5" inches thick.

How thick are Travertine Pavers?

Standard Travertine Pavers in the USA are 1 1/4" thick. Pavers can also be 2" thick or more.
What is a Travertine Bullnose?

Travertine bullnose is a term used in combination with Travertine Pool Copings. It implies that 1 side of the stone is rounded off. Double Bullnose Copings also exist and imply 2 rounded off sides.

What is a Travertine Medallion?

A Travertine Medallion is a floor center piece or wall decoration piece crafted out of Travertine stone. Most Medallions are build using Travertine Mosaic pieces and broken travertine stones.
What are the most popular sizes and patterns for Travertine Mosaics?

Travertine Mosaics come in all kinds of sizes and all kinds of color and shape variations. Some of the most popular sizes are 1x1, 1x2, 2x2, 2x4, 4x4. There are really no standards when it comes to Mosaics. Mosaics can be created in almost any size. Some of the most popular mosaic patterns are: **Regular (square), Spiral, Herringbone, Stagger (Brick) and Sticks.**

How large is a Travertine Pool Tile?

Travertine Pool Tiles usually come in sizes 4x4 and 6x6.
What Travertine Floor Tile sizes are most popular in the USA?

The most popular sizes for indoor Travertine Tiles are French Pattern, **12x12**, **16x16** and **18x18**. **24x24** travertine tiles are also gaining popularity among American homes. Some folks even use travertine tiles for pool decks in order to cut down on the material cost, since tiles are usually cheaper than pavers.

![Travertine Tile Sizes](image)

What is the difference between Cross Cut and Vein Cut Travertine?

99% of the travertine which you see online or displayed throughout retail locations such as flooring companies, pool builders, home improvement companies etc. is by default **cross cut**. This refers to the default way of cutting the travertine blocks which are harvested from the quarry. In order to produce vein cut travertine, the travertine blocks are rotated and the cuts take place across the vein. Think of it as cutting a tree. You can cut a tree vertically or horizontally. If you cut it vertically, the veins come out, same with Travertine.

![Cross Cut vs Vein Cut Travertine](image)
**What is a Travertine Remodeling Coping?**

Travertine Remodeling Copings can be placed on top of existing pool copings opposed to having to remove your current pool copings while remodeling your pool. Using remodeling pool copings can be more cost effective during your pool remodeling process but the drawback is that you can only remodel once. Should you decide to remodel again, obviously you'd have to remove the existing remodeling copings. In other words, you can not place a remodeling coping on top of another remodeling coping.

![4x9x4 Remodeling Pool Coping](image)

**What size does a Travertine Pool Remodeling Coping come in?**

The most popular sizes for Pool Remodeling Copings are **4x9x4** and **12x12x4**.

![4x9x4 Remodeling Pool Coping](image) ![12x12x4 Remodeling Pool Coping](image)
What is the most popular Travertine Paver size in the US?

Depending on the region, one of the most popular size for Travertine Pavers is **6x12**. Other paver sizes also exist such as 4x8, 12x12, 12x24, 16x16, 16x24, 24x24 and even 36x36. But none of these sizes are as popular as the compact 6x12 travertine paver which finds it's primary home on American driveways and around pool borders.

![6x12 Ivory Travertine Pavers](image)

What size Travertine Pool Copings are on the market?

The most popular Pool Copings come in sizes: **4x9, 6x12, 12x12 and 12x24**. Most Copings have a tumbled finish while some have a honed finish. Coping are the same thickness as travertine pavers: 1 1/4". Pool Copings which are 2” thick are available as well. Further, any travertine paver can be turned into a travertine coping using a coping machine. Pavers are fed into the coping machine which creates a paver with a round side. A travertine paver with one round side is also referred to as a Single Bullnose Coping while pavers with both sides rounded off are called Double Bullnose Copings.

![6x12, 4x9, 12x12](image)
What are the most popular uses of Travertine?

History teaches us that there are no limits when it comes to the usage of Travertine stone. Even before Christ, Travertine used to be among the top building stones in Ancient Greek and Rome. Romans took advantage of Travertine for various constructions projects such as buildings and temples, aqueducts, baths, stairs, steps, and amphitheaters such as the Colosseum, the largest building in the world constructed mostly of travertine. Travertine was also used for sculptures and monuments. Even today in the 21st century, Travertine stone is being used for a huge variety of indoor and outdoor projects. There are no exact design guidelines when it comes to travertine. It can be used practically anywhere to enhance any area. The most popular uses in the US include but are not limited to the following.

Most common indoor travertine usage in the US:

- Floors and Walls
- Stairs & Steps
- Bathroom & Showers
- Countertops & Backsplashes
- Travertine Sinks & Vessels
- Medallions
- Fireplaces
- Indoor Split Face Walls
Most common outdoor travertine usage in the US:

- Pool Decks
- Pool Steps
- Driveways
- Patios
- Walk-ways
- Outdoor Fireplaces
- House Walls
- Outside Stairs