

# TECHNICAL INFORMATION

# SONOMA STONE



sonomatilemakers.com

## APPLICATIONS

Our stones are suitable for all interior residential applications. This includes interior walls, shower walls, and light-use counters and floors. Commercial applications are typically limited to interior vertical applications and some light traffic floors. Tessuto, Gray Flannel and Teakwood are not recommended for any horizontal surfaces where water will accumulate or exterior applications.

## VARIATION

Stone is a natural product and no two pieces are ever the same. Sonoma Stones are sourced from the finest suppliers in the world, yet there is no guarantee when it comes to the unique natural variations you will see from piece to piece. There is variation in color, texture, movement and veining that are impossible to show in a photograph or individual piece. Once blended and properly installed, the resulting variation is what defines the unsurpassed beauty of natural stone.

## INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

**Select installers for Sonoma Stone with great consideration and care as proper installation is critical. Make sure the installer understands the blending requirements as Sonoma Stones have variation in color, texture, movement and veinings. For this reason, all stone should be unpacked, inspected and **BLENDED** prior to installation. We do not accept claims for variation in any stone after installation.**

**INDUSTRY RESOURCES:** Due to the natural characteristics of stone products, it is very important that the proper installation and methods are also used according to the relevant industry standards. For specific questions or accepted industry standards, refer to the Marble Institute of America ([www.marble-institute.com](http://www.marble-institute.com)) and TCNA Handbook ([tileusa.com](http://tileusa.com)).

**SUBSTRATES:** We recommend installing stones over a clean, sound, and flat concrete or mortar substrate with a steel trowel and fine broom finish. The surface should be free of contaminants or any condition that could compromise the bond of the tile. When stone is installed on a concrete slab at ground level, it is the responsibility of the buyer and installer to ensure a proper moisture barrier is in place prior to installation. In a shower, we recommend that the substrate beneath, and pertaining to, the tiling of the shower walls and floors with a Sonoma Stone product has a waterproof membrane system installed prior to the installation of the tile.

**GROUTING & SEALING:** Sealing is an essential step in protecting the beauty and ensuring the longevity of any Sonoma Stone. We recommend sealing all Sonoma Stones with a penetrating sealer. In addition, we recommend sealing all limestones prior to grouting. This prevents grout from staining or affecting the color of the stones. It is further recommended that stone products be resealed as part of normal maintenance procedures. Grout joints should be packed full and free of all voids and pits. Excess grout should be cleaned from the stone surface as the work progresses, before the grout hardens. Cure grout per grout manufacturer's instructions. Do not use acids to clean off excess grout. **Dark grouts may stain light colored stones. Test prior to installation. Sealing before grouting may help but will not guarantee stain prevention from dark grout.**

**MAINTENANCE:** Clean stone surfaces with a neutral cleaner, stone soap or a mild liquid dishwashing detergent and warm water. Use a clean rag mop on floors and soft clean cloth for other surfaces for best results. Rinse the surface thoroughly after washing with the soap solution and dry with a soft cloth. Change the rinse water frequently. Care should be taken to protect Sonoma Stones from harsh abrasive cleaners and abrasive cleaning tools. Avoid stone care sprays that contain phosphoric and glycolic acids, that could etch some polished stone surfaces

continued on next page...

# SONOMA STONE

[sonomatilemakers.com](http://sonomatilemakers.com)



## SPECIAL NOTES

**Note on Gray Flannel & Tessuto:** We do not recommend this stone for horizontal applications where water can accumulate. This stone has a high salt content, which may lead to efflorescence (salt materials to come to the surface and crystallize). This is a naturally occurring process and common to some stones. We recommend setting this stone with a low water adhesive such as latex thin set. Also, prior to sealing with a penetrating sealer, allow the stone to fully breathe and dry out. This minimizes the effects of efflorescence, but is no guarantee to have none at all. In some cases the efflorescence can be rubbed off with a light damp cloth or very fine abrasive (grain 320 or 400), or it may need to be rehoned.

**Note on Della Vigna (etched tumbled stone):** Seal with a water-based sealer only. Never use solvent or acid-based solution washes. Grout should be cleaned from tile surface during installation. Haze that is allowed to dry may be difficult to remove.