

# natural part 1 of 2 FLOOR TILES

Natural stone has been popular for centuries and for very good reason, durability and natural beauty. Here are the most popular natural stone materials. Check with your local supplier to ensure your natural stone floor will last forever. Which one would you choose?



## 1 SLATE

Slate is probably the type of stone tile you'll encounter most often here in Edmonton, Alberta. It's a metamorphic rock that splits into thin sheets easily. Once it cleaves into sheets it's easy to turn it into tile.

**Pros:** Slate is highly resilient, naturally beautiful and is readily available in western Canada.

**Cons:** Due to thickness variables, needs to be installed by a professional, be sure to figure installation into the final cost. High colour variation.

**Cost:** \$4-\$12 per square foot depending upon tile size and finish (honed vs. natural)

**Suggested uses:** All around your home, indoors and out, for both walls and floors.

## TRAVERTINE

Travertine is a sedimentary rock composed of calcite, and is a bit softer than limestone. Few materials offer the warmth that travertine does, it has its own beauty that is very popular. Usually a cream or reddish color. It is formed through the accumulation of calcite from hot springs. It contains lots of holes that were formed from water flowing through the stone. These holes are often filled with synthetic resins or cements. Requires lots of maintenance if the holes are not filled. Travertine gets a lot of bad press for being a fragile material, the Trevi Fountain in Rome is made from travertine, and it's been there for 300 years.

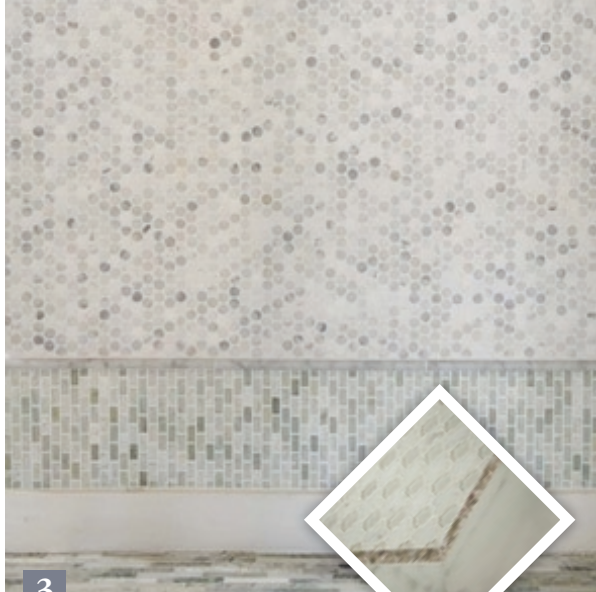
**Pros:** Wildly variable patterns and colors, feels soft underfoot

**Cons:** Has a tendency to scratch and stain, is porous, proper sealant is required for all applications - check with your local professional.

**Cost:** \$8- \$20 per square foot

**Suggested uses:** All around your home, indoors and out, for both walls and floors.





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## MARBLE

A recrystallized limestone that formed when the limestone softened from heat and pressure and recrystallized into marble where mineral change occurred. The main consistency is calcium and dolomite. Ranges in many colors and is usually heavily veined and shows lots of grains. In ancient times, royalty demanded marble floors because of its gorgeous high gloss shine and beautiful variations of colour from soft to bold. Marble is prone to staining and scratching. It's harder and more resilient than travertine but it will require extra attention. Marble will benefit from professional sealing, and it's better left with a polished finish. Honed is available, tends to scratch more easily than polished. Classic, beautiful, sophisticated – marble.

**Pros:** Beautiful patterns and variations from soft to bold colour, highly resilient

**Cons:** Absorbs water, so be careful using it outdoors. Prone to stains and scratches, especially on honed finish.

**Cost:** \$8-\$40 per square foot

**Suggested uses:** Preferable for indoors only, both walls and floor applications.

Proper sealant is required for all applications - check with your local professional.



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## GRANITE

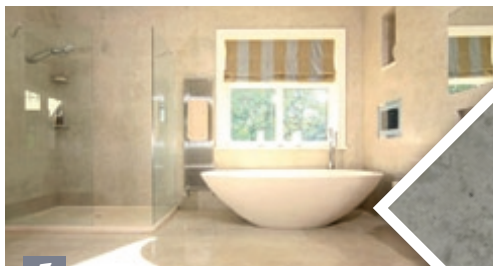
Probably the hardest natural stone out there. Granite holds shine and repels water beautifully. With hundreds of varieties, colours, textures, tones your options to set the look for your home are endless. Truly an amazing array for styles and budget.

**Pros:** Beautiful colors and patterns. Highly resilient, can be used indoors or out.

**Cons:** Cold to the touch, can be costly

**Cost:** \$15-\$40 per square foot

**Suggested uses:** All around your home, indoors and out, for both walls and floors.



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## LIMESTONE

Mainly consists of calcite. It does not show graining or crystalline structure. It has a smooth granular surface. Varies in hardness. Some dense limestone can be polished. It is more likely to stain than marble. Limestone is known to contain lime from sea water. <http://www.houzz.com/photos/215049/Walker-Zanger-eclectic--Limestone> often keeps its striations as it forms, and has a tendency to look like wood. Limestone will scratch, and is not recommended for those who like things to look perfect - it will wear over time.

**Pros:** Beautiful patterns, texture and colors.

**Cons:** Absorbs water, so be careful using it outdoors.

**Cost:** \$15-\$40 per square foot

**Suggested uses:** All around your home, indoors and out, for both walls and floors.



As an interior design professional, I follow fashion, the economy, local and international events to bring you my professional opinion of what is current and innovative in the world of interior design. Join me each month where I hope to inspire you in making your home the very best it can be.

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