

Expert

Recommendations For Your Installation

Your Vision, Our Expert Installation.

- ✓ Exterior Adhesion
- ✓ Drywall Adhesion
- ✓ Drywall Gap Filling
- ✓ Cement Board Adhesion



Soft Travertine



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For thin travertine stone veneer on Exterior , use:

✓ Polymer-modified thin-set mortar
Strong bond, flexible, weather-resistant.

Examples:

LATICRETE 254 Platinum
MAPEI Ultraflex LFT
Custom Building Products VersaBond-LFT

Tips:

Use ½" notched trowel.
Back-butter each panel for full contact.
Ensure ambient temps are 40–95°F during install/cure.

✓ 3.Recommended Gap Filler

✓ Recommended Gap Filler for Exterior Thin Travertine (1/8")

1. Sanded Exterior-Grade Grout (Polymer-Modified)

- Best for a grouted, traditional look
- Handles slight expansion/contraction
- UV-resistant and durable
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Recommended Products:

- Mapei Keracolor S (sanded grout) + optional Grout Maximizer for improved weather resistance
- LATICRETE Permacolor
- Custom Building Products PolyBlend Sanded Grout

 Tip: Use light beige, ivory, or custom color to match travertine tone.

2. Sanded Urethane or Epoxy Grout (Higher-Performance Option)

- More flexible and weatherproof than cement-based grouts
- Good for areas exposed to freeze-thaw cycles, rain, or salt
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Recommended Products:

- LATICRETE SpectraLOCK 1 (sanded epoxy hybrid)
- Mapei Flexcolor CQ (pre-mixed, exterior-rated)
- Custom Fusion Pro (ready-to-use urethane grout)
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✓ Advantages:

- No sealing needed
- Mold/mildew resistant
- Withstands outdoor exposure without cracking

3. Color-Matched Sanded Caulk (for movement joints or fine gap sealing)

For filling vertical or horizontal joints that require flexibility
Use where stone meets trim, windows, corners, or dissimilar materials

Recommended Products:

Mapei Keracaulk S

LATICRETE Latasil Sanded Silicone (UV-resistant)

 **Tip:** Choose the same color code as your grout for a seamless look.

What NOT to Use:

Unsanded grout – too weak and prone to cracking outdoors

Interior caulks – not UV- or freeze-thaw resistant

Joint compound or spackles – not weatherproof

Installation Tips for Exterior Veneer Joints (1/8"):

Seal travertine before applying grout to prevent staining.

Use a grout bag for clean application in tight joints.

Tool the joints with a jointer or damp sponge after initial setup.

Allow to cure fully (usually 24–72 hours depending on material).

Optionally, apply a breathable sealer over the finished surface for extra protection.

4. Sealing the Stone (Optional but Recommended)

A breathable, penetrating sealer can:

Prevent water absorption and freeze-thaw issues.

Protect against efflorescence or staining.

Recommended Sealers:

Aqua Mix Sealer's Choice Gold

StoneTech BulletProof Sealer

5. Control Joints and Movement Gaps **Always:**

Leave expansion joints every 10–15 ft.

Isolate stone veneer from dissimilar materials (windows, doors, dissimilar substrates) using backer rod and flexible caulk.

Summary: Recommended Materials for Exterior Travertine MSV

Installation Step Recommended Materials

WRB / Drainage Plane 2 layers of WRB (Tyvek + felt)

Scratch coat (if needed) Type S mortar

Adhesive Polymer-modified thinset (LFT-rated)

Joint filler Type N mortar or sanded grout

Sealer (optional) Penetrating sealer for travertine

Expansion joint filler Backer rod + exterior-grade caulk (sanded if needed)

Optional Tools / Accessories **Grout bag**

Notched trowel (½")

Margin trowel

Sponge + soft brush for cleanup

Joint tool (rounded for concave joints)

1. Drywall Adhesion

Drywall is acceptable for lightweight stone veneer only in dry, interior areas.

It must be clean, primed, and in good condition (no peeling paint, damage, or moisture exposure).

Do **NOT** use drywall in wet areas like behind sinks, in showers, or exterior walls. Use cement board or a waterproof substrate in those cases.

2. Adhesives That Work on Drywall + Provide Moisture Resistance

These are construction-grade adhesives designed for vertical surfaces and natural or manufactured stone:

✓ Loctite® PL Premium or PL Max Construction Adhesive

Bonds stone to drywall and many other surfaces.

Water-resistant once cured, suitable for dry and slightly damp locations.

Strong initial grab for vertical surfaces.

✓ SikaBond® Construction Adhesive

High-strength polyurethane adhesive.

Good flexibility, durable, and moisture-resistant (not for soaking wet areas).

✓ Titebond® Heavy Duty Construction Adhesive

VOC-compliant, bonds stone to drywall.

Interior-grade, moisture-resistant.

Not Suitable:

Liquid Nails for Projects – too weak for stone.

Standard tile mastic – not designed for stone veneer or drywall with stone weight.

Best Practice for Your Use:

If your wall is in a dry interior space (like a living room, hallway, or bedroom):

- ✓ You can apply the veneer directly to primed drywall.
- ✓ Use a high-quality construction adhesive (Loctite PL Max, SikaBond, etc.).
- ✓ Seal the veneer (especially travertine) after installation to protect against humidity or stains.

MATERIAL OPTIONS FOR GAP FILLING

Since you're:
Using ultra-light veneer (under 1 lb per sheet)
Working on interior drywall
Not dealing with moisture

✓ **Best Material to Fill Gaps:**

Sanded Acrylic Caulk or Premixed Sanded Grout

These offer:

Better adhesion to stone and drywall

Flexibility for minor expansion/contraction

Easier application (especially caulk)

Good long-term durability in dry interiors

Application Tips

Prime the drywall first, especially if you're skipping cement board.
Seal the panel before grouting or caulking, especially for porous travertine.
Use a grout bag or small spatula to control gap filler and avoid smearing.
Clean excess immediately with a sponge or damp cloth.

1. Bathrooms /Shower Cement Board Adhesion

For showers or any wet bathroom walls:

- ✓ Cement backer board (e.g., HardieBacker, Durock)
- ✓ Waterproof membrane over backer board (see next step)

2. Waterproofing – Critical Step

Apply a liquid waterproofing membrane over the cement board before setting stone:

Recommended products:

LATICRETE Hydro Ban
Mapei AquaDefense
RedGard Waterproofing Membrane

 Skipping this step can lead to mold, water damage, or efflorescence behind the veneer.

3. Adhesive (Thin-set Mortar)

For 1/8 thick travertine veneer in wet areas, use:

- ✓ High-performance, non-sag, polymer-modified thin-set
Strong bond, flexible, waterproof-compatible
Designed for large-format or thin, delicate tile/stone

Recommended adhesives:

LATICRETE 254 Platinum
Mapei Keraflex Super
Schluter ALL-SET
Custom Building Products ProLite

Tips:

Use a 3/16" V-notch trowel for 1/8 veneers.
Back-butter each panel for full coverage.
Work in small sections to avoid drying out adhesive too fast.

4. Gap Filling (Grouting Between Stones)

If your travertine veneer has gaps (even small ones), you must grout in wet areas to prevent water intrusion.

 Use: Sanded or Unsanded Epoxy Grout
100% waterproof and stain-resistant

Strong and flexible—perfect for thin, delicate veneer in wet areas

Recommended epoxy grouts:

LATICRETE SpectraLOCK 1 or SpectraLOCK PRO

Mapei Kerapoxy

Custom Building Products Fusion Pro (Single-component, not epoxy but similar)

Use unsanded epoxy grout if joints are $<1/8"$, and sanded if $>1/8"$.

5. Sealing (Very Important for Travertine)

Travertine is porous. Always seal it before and after grouting.

Use a penetrating, breathable stone sealer:

STONETECH BulletProof Sealer

Aqua Mix Sealer's Choice Gold

 Apply 1–2 coats before grouting to prevent staining, then another coat after grout cures.

Step Material Recommendation:

Substrate Cement board (HardieBacker)

Waterproofing LATICRETE Hydro Ban / RedGard

Adhesive LATICRETE 254 / Mapei Keraflex Super

Grout LATICRETE SpectraLOCK or Mapei Kerapoxy

Sealer STONETECH BulletProof / Aqua Mix

Trowel 3/16" V-notch for thin veneer