

CASE STUDY

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA, USA

THE PROJECT

For those who have visited coastal islands of Georgia, the smell of salt air on the marsh is intoxicating.

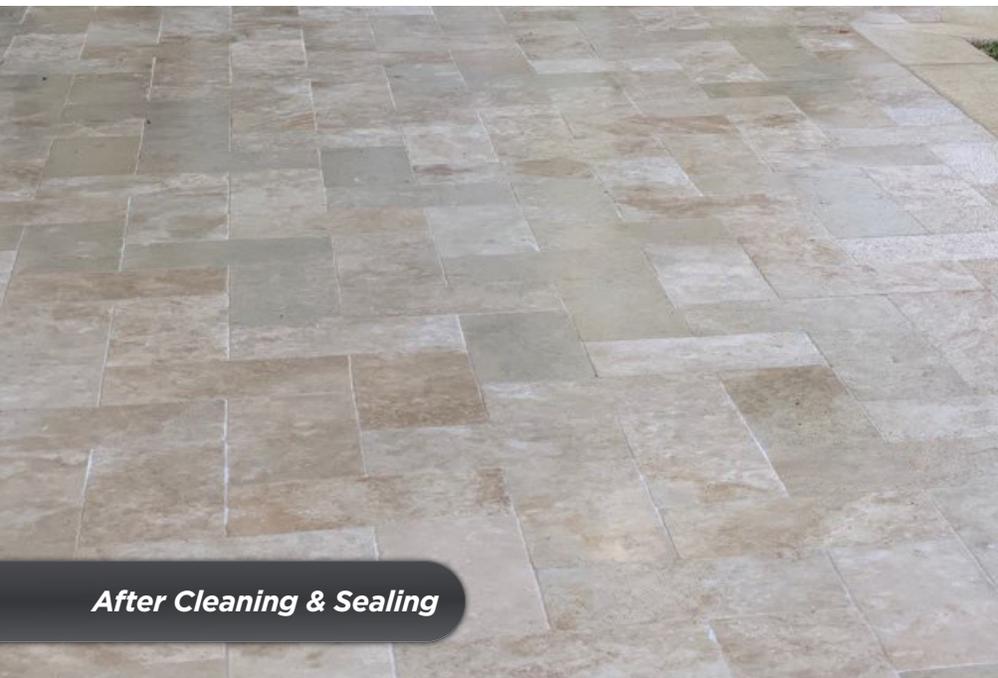
Homes in this region are particularly vulnerable to the damaging effects of salt, including efflorescence and spalling as well as hammocks of oak trees creating shade as well as the red Georgia clay that can stain a porous surface and require a sealer that can provide long-term protection from this as well as staining.

The owners of this house used travertine for the exterior decking overlooking the water. This type of limestone that is formed by mineral deposits from natural springs. This sedimentary stone is created by a rapid precipitation of calcium carbonate, known as calcite. Other minerals mix together with the calcite to create unique swirls and movement that give travertine its distinctive character tones, it is also porous, and prone to staining and salt damage.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Due to the nature of the project and the surfacing materials used, clients and contractor had some very particular prerequisites for choosing the right sealer:

- Surface must be cleaned with a PH balanced chemical like SMC Peroxide cleaner
- Superior protection from water ingress of sands, clays, tannins etc.
- The look and matte texture of the honed travertine limestone had to be retained.
- Sealer must not affect the slip resistance of the surfaces.



After Cleaning & Sealing

-  SMC Peroxide Cleaner
40SK Consolidator & Water Repellent
-  Exterior Flooring: Travertine
-  Residential
-  St. Simons Island, GA, USA
-  Webster Tile & Bath
David Webster Owner/Craftsman

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS CONT.

- Sealed surfaces should be easier to maintain and clean.
- Due to the proximity to the coastline, and the soft, friable nature of the sandstone and limestone, they needed to be sealed with a product which could consolidate these stones and guard against salt attack.

SOLUTION

Webster Tile & Bath cleaned the travertine surface before treatment. Stain-Proof® SMC Peroxide Cleaner was used to bring impurities to the surface so they could be removed from stone. First, Stain-Proof 40SK was applied to the exterior surface to help consolidate the stone and make it less prone to salt spalling (salt water enters the stone, the water evaporates and leaves salt crystals just under the surface where they grow over time and break off tiny pieces of the stone).

Neither sealer affects the look or slip resistance of the surface, and bond permanently deep inside the pores, so are not affected by strong alkaline cleaners and do not need to be re-applied. The surface will not have to be sealed for at least 15 years.

