

Understanding Random Patterns

A random patterned stone floor is a brilliant way of adding authentic tradition to your space.

Traditionally, most stone floors would have comprised of many different sizes of rectangles or squares. This was due to ancient quarrying methods, which resulted in much smaller blocks of stone. To utilise the material efficiently, stonemasons used the size of the block available and cut this into rectangular tiles. For this reason, paving in farmhouses, churches, and townhouses alike was comprised of a complex mix of randomly laid tiles, as below.



To replicate this traditional look, we have sourced several patterns in many different stones, and some in porcelain. Unlike traditional rectangular stone floors which were truly random, we have chosen pre-designed patterns comprised of several regular sizes. This is not only quicker to lay, but also much more efficient for modern production methods, reducing wastage quite substantially.

‘However, it is important to note that tile size tolerances must be allowed for. For natural stone, this is due to the accuracy limitations of the process of cutting stone. For porcelain, subtle size variations between batches and the different sizes needed to build a patterned floor can occur, as a result of

the process of being fired in a kiln. To enhance the traditional, natural effect. We recommend laying patterned stones or porcelain with creativity. Some guidelines can be found below:

- Dry lay each section before installing to check the grout joints.
- Use a slow-set adhesive bed to allow plenty of time to adjust the tiles if needs be. It is best to complete the tiling in one go to allow sufficient time for adjustment.
- Where applicable, varying the width of the grout joints can be very effective. This is largely imperceptible when the floor is finished- thanks to mix of sizes in the patterns, there are few long lengths of grout which would betray any grout width variance.
- Viewing the tiling from standing height, not from close observation, is recommended.

The materials this advice applies to are listed below. We have eight options in natural stone, and three in porcelain.

- Farley/Trusloe Seasoned Finish – Greek Pattern
- Hamlet/Wychwood Tumbled Finish – French Pattern
- Neranjo/Buscot Tumbled Finish– French Pattern
- Neranjo/Buscot Seasoned Finish– American Pattern
- National Trust Cotehele Beige Opus Pattern
- National Trust Cotehele Grey Opus Pattern
- National Trust Cotehele Sand Opus Pattern

For any further queries, advice, or to request samples, please contact us below.