



# ALLSTONE

NATURAL STONE SPECIALISTS

## COPING

### INSTALLING NATURAL STONE COPING

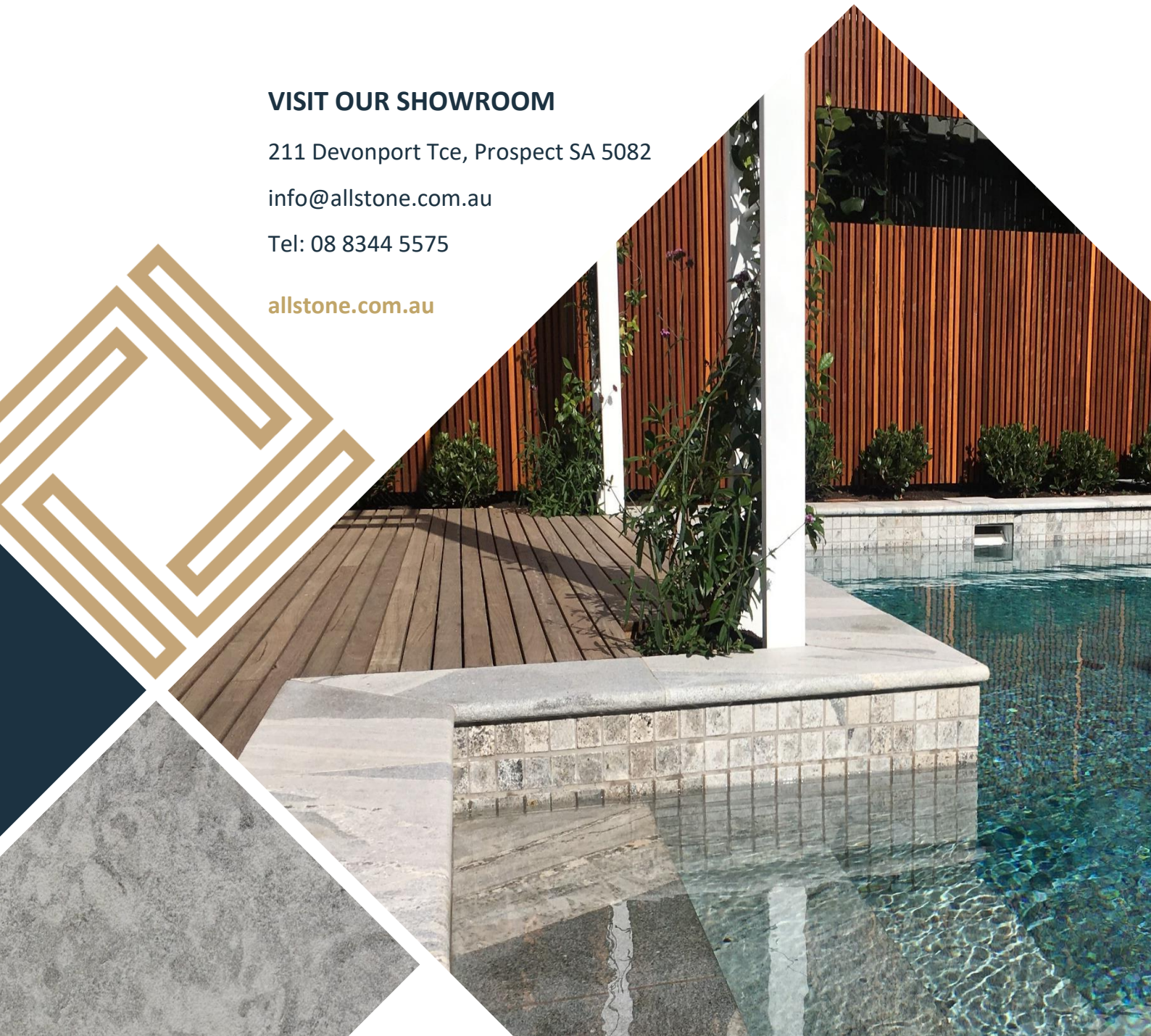
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We hope this document provides helpful information on installing natural stone coping, but if in doubt, please consult the relevant Australian standards and contact the relevant trades and installers for professional advice and assistance.

## METHOD:

Coping is usually installed by using a tile glue to directly stick your stone coping onto the pool concrete beam:

1. Prepare your pool surround to make it ready to adhere the stone coping, the key is to have a keyable surface that the glue can appropriately bond to.
  - If you are sticking onto a fiberglass surface, you need to sand back the fiberglass until the fibres are almost exposed. Prime the surface and add an additive to the adhesive (in place of water) for added flexibility.
  - Some concrete beams may also need priming before installing your coping.
2. Depending on the type of stone, your pool disinfection method and the sealer you are using, you may need to pre-seal the coping. When pre-sealing, always check that the adhesive and grout you are planning to use is compatible with the sealer.
3. Ensure both the back of the stone and the pool surround are free of dirt, dust and other contaminants prior to application.
4. Stone should be fixed to the slab using the Tarver Method. To do this:
  - Spread the adhesive on the substrate surface with a 10-12mm notched trowel to achieve both the minimum required coverage and bed thickness. When the trowel is held at an appropriate angle and its notched side is drawn over the adhesive, it will leave a series of parallel ribs. Adequate ribs are essential to ensure an evenly distributed area of contact between the stone and the adhesive. You are aiming for full coverage of the stone back. Apply the adhesive in small areas as you go to ensure the adhesive does not skin prior to bedding of the stone.
  - Also butter the entire area of the back of the stone with a thin screed of adhesive 1-2 mm thick to achieve minimum 99% coverage.
  - Carefully press each stone coping piece onto the substrate and then drag it at least one width of a rib perpendicular to the adhesive ribs. You can use your hands or gently tap with a rubber mallet if you need to adjust the level. You will likely need to adjust a few coping pieces as you go to absorb any thickness variation.
  - You can check the adhesive coverage you are achieving on a sample piece, by lifting it immediately once placed.
  - Allow at least a 3mm gap between each coping piece to absorb any movement and cutting tolerances.
  - Work cleanly and remove any adhesive immediately from unwanted areas especially the face of the stone.

5. Once laid, do not disturb the stone as per the adhesive manufacture's recommendations for curing.
6. Finally, the gaps can then be filled by either a sanded grout for tighter gaps, or a mortar for wider gaps.

#### Please note:

- There can be some bleeding of moisture and adhesive colour on dark coloured stone; using the above method should minimise this. Stone may also be pre sealed if preferred.
- When grouting or pointing you should always work clean, it is very difficult to remove grout or mortar from the stone once it has dried. Wetting the pavers down or pre-sealing them before you start can help avoid picture framing, which is where the grout haze forms a border around the edge of each piece of stone. Acid can damage stone, do not use it to clean your coping.

## BLENDING

Installing natural stone is all about the blend. The way the natural variation of stone plays out across your area has a huge impact on the resulting look and feel of your natural stone coping area.

## CHOOSING AN INSTALLER

While we are not installers ourselves, we do know that not all pool coping options are the same. When selecting an installer, it is always best to use someone who has previously worked with the type of product you are using in your space.

## CUTTING

Pavers should be cut with a wet saw, using diamond blades specifically designed for cutting natural stone. Wash any cutting slurry from the stone, once cut. Don't forget you're PPE.

## SEALING

Please find our separate resources on sealing for more information.

#### Disclaimer

The information in this guideline is general in nature and do not supersede the relevant Australian Standards. Installers should consider many factors, some of which have not been covered in this document. Allstone is a stone retailer and are not accredited trades or builders, we provide this information for convenience only and this document represents a summary of our understanding at the time of publishing. It is the responsibility of the builder and installer to determine if these guidelines are suitable.