

CHAPTER NINETEEN

EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE™

CHAPTER OUTLINE

**Introduction**

Surround yourself with the serenity of old-world sophistication found in Jeffrey Court's European Countryside™ collection. This collection gets its inspiration from the peaceful rolling hillsides and winding roads found in rural regions throughout Europe.

For centuries, people living in the European countryside have been inspired by the natural beauty of their surroundings. From the stone walls and slate roofs of traditional French farmhouses to the terracotta tiles and stucco walls of Italian villas, the architecture of the European countryside reflects a deep connection to the land and a respect for its natural beauty.

European Countryside pays homage to this rich architectural heritage, with classic shapes and neutral colors that evoke the deep-rooted beauty of rural Europe. The collection features tiles with a rustic, raw texture that brings to mind the rough-hewn stone walls of ancient buildings, while still maintaining a modern minimalist feel.

This collection transports you to a place of calm and tranquility, where the stresses of the modern world fade away. The neutral color palette reflects the natural tones of the countryside.

Whether used in a rustic farmhouse kitchen or a sleek modern bathroom, European Countryside brings a touch of enchantment to any space. It is a reminder of the beauty and simplicity of rural life, and an invitation to surround oneself with the serene natural beauty of the landscape.

Key Features

European Countryside features wet-cast concrete decorative field tiles with a limestone finish balanced by an assortment of romantic marbles.

1. Wet-Cast Concrete Decorative Field Tiles

We named each of the field colors after regions from European countrysides; Tuscan, a warm beige paying homage to Italy; Provence, an elegant light grey inspired by France; and Catalan, a tribute to Spain in a darker sophisticated grey. Each tile's surface texture has a weathered limestone finish.

- The field tile shapes include:
 - 4.25" x 4.25" Square
 - 6.25" x 4.25" Scallop
 - 9.75" x 9.125" Arabesque

2. Calacatta Oro Marble Mosaics & Field Tiles

This beautifully bold Calacatta Oro marble makes a statement with its wide range of marbling that is reminiscent of vines wrapping their way through the rural regions of Europe.

Mosaics

Our tumbled Calacatta Oro mosaics have a tumbled brushed finish and are available in three patterns.

– The mosaic shapes include:

- Cobblestone - features 3" mini squares that together create a cobblestone-like pattern
- Galloni - a chevron inspired design with a worn look
- Piazza - a stick mosaic with an aged effect

Field Tile

This collection offers a 6" x 12" Fluted Calacatta Oro field tile in a worn-honed finish.

3. Venetian Beige Marble Field Tiles

This handsome Venetian Beige marble represents the subtle elegance of the unique elements found throughout the European landscape. The 6" x 24" and 18" x 18" field tiles have a smooth brushed finish. The 6" x 12" Fluted Field Tile has a soft honed finish.

Application

EXTERIOR APPLICATIONS FOR CONCRETE TILES: Outdoor installations in freeze-thaw climates may be appropriate if pertinent installation instructions are followed diligently. Installations in these environments are more demanding so the installer must follow all installation instructions closely. If salt is used to melt snow/ice, it is important to note that the salt will eat away at concrete over time (similar to its effects on natural stone and poured concrete).

Concrete tiles are not recommended for submerged applications. Installing around the pool, e.g. coping or decking is acceptable.

Concrete tiles are porous, similar to natural stone. If items are properly sealed at install and resealed regularly thereafter they will maintain their appearance. Some patina should be expected over time. If resealing is not done consistently, concrete tiles will absorb the environment and show color changes.

Please reference the **Application Chart** for Chapter 19 European Countryside on our website, JeffreyCourt.com, for additional details on recommended applications.

Testing

Product specifications are listed on each product-specific web page on JeffreyCourt.com. If available, testing results for applicable products can also be found on our website.

Cutting

A professional-grade wet saw outfitted with a high-quality diamond blade designed for cutting tiles is recommended. Always cut tiles with the face-up.

Installation Tips

Blending and Shade Variation

- To achieve your desired look, Jeffrey Court recommends that you inspect and confirm the tile and layout prior to installation. It is highly recommended to blend products from multiple cartons to ensure a proper uniform look. Any issues related to shade variation should be addressed before installation. Installation of tile constitutes acceptance.
- Tonal variations in concrete and natural stone items are inherent and to be expected, and should blend like stone tile.

For concrete specific installation details please reference the Chapter 19 Concrete Installation Details and Concrete Tile Wall and Floor Installation Recommendations found on [JeffreyCourt.com](https://www.jeffreycourt.com).

Rating

For specific item-by-item shade variation rating, please reference each product-specific web page on [JeffreyCourt.com](https://www.jeffreycourt.com).

Setting Material

- Tile must be installed over an appropriate, properly prepared substrate. Concrete slabs should be clean and free of contaminants. Wood substrates should be engineered or verified to be able to handle the weight of the entire tile installation (including setting materials); otherwise, cracking can occur due to excessive deflection of the subfloor.
- Approved substrates include cementitious backer boards, concrete masonry units, and concrete panels.
- A high-quality white thinset meeting ANSI 118.4 or 118.11 is recommended for best installation results. Always check with the setting material manufacturer to ensure suitability of material in setting tiles. A grey mortar, mastic, or adhesive could stain or alter the color of the product.
- A proper notched trowel is required to compensate for some minor thickness variations on the field tiles that are possible with this natural semi-calibrated product.
- Large-format mortar is recommended for concrete.

Sealing

- It is necessary to seal the material well with a high-quality natural-look penetrating sealer before and after grouting, especially in freeze-thaw climates.
- Sealing before grouting will ease the cleaning process and will reduce the possibility of staining from colored grouts.
- Sealing after grouting will ensure that both the grout and tile material are protected from daily use. It is recommended that the sealer manufacturer's recommended maintenance regimen be followed as part of ongoing care during the lifetime of the product.
- Note that water should bead on the surface if sealed properly.
- Concrete tiles are especially porous and must be sealed for best performance.
- It is recommended that porous tiles especially be pre-sealed prior to installation to avoid staining with water from the setting material, contaminated grout water, and oils from fingers.

For concrete specific sealer recommendations and instructions please reference the Chapter 19 Concrete Sealing Guide found on JeffreyCourt.com.

Grout

- Grout color is part of the design process and considerations must be made. A grout choice closest to the color and hue of the tile being grouted can be considered the safest choice.
- As per the Tile Council of North America (TCNA): "For cementitious grout, joints smaller than 1/8" generally should only be grouted with unsanded grout."
- For Concrete Field Tiles, a 1/2" grout joint is recommended.
- Fluted Field Tiles
 - For Dry Set, butt joint is suitable for dry installations.
 - Wet areas should have a minimum of 1/8" grout joints.
- Please Note: Urethane grout was used on the touch boards for this collection. Pre-sealing any matte/frosted tiles prior to grouting with urethane grout is required. Suggested recommendation for natural stone items: Aqua Mix® Grout Release.

For concrete specific grout tips and recommendations please reference the Chapter 19 Concrete Tile Installation Details, Concrete Tile Wall and Floor Installation Recommendations, and the Concrete Cleaning & Maintenance Tips found on JeffreyCourt.com.

ADDITIONAL INSTALLATION TIPS FOR CONCRETE TILES

- Waterproofing membranes are strongly recommended for exterior installations and mandatory for wet areas.
- Concrete tiles should never be used in waterline or submerged applications.
- Do not use acids, alkalis, or other harsh chemicals to clean tiles before, during, and after installation.
- A 1/2" square notch trowel is recommended.
- Sanded Grout is recommended.
- Use of a grout bag is recommended to fill joints rather than smearing the entire tile surface.
- All installations should include movement joints to compensate for the stresses (settling, thermal expansion, deflection) inherent in and normal to every installation. Movement joints act as a safety valve so these forces can be released gradually and in a controlled manner rather than transmitting through and potentially cracking the tiles.
- Movement joints must follow these guidelines per the TCNA Handbook' and are mandatory for walls and floors.
 - Interior: 20' to 25' in each direction
 - Exterior: 8' to 12' in each direction
 - Interior: 8' to 12" in each direction (areas exposed to sun or moisture)
 - Do not tile over movement joints
 - Soft joints are required at perimeters and transitions to different materials

Concrete Cleaning

- Regular sweeping or vacuuming is recommended.
- Routine cleaning with a PH Neutral Cleaner.

Concrete Maintenance

- The color used in our concrete products is pure inorganic pigment, which is made in the process of oxidizing metal. Essentially "fading" metal into a pigment powder. The resulting powder pigment concentrate is impossible to fade. Concrete, on the other hand, does change with time and weather exposure.
- Clean regularly with warm water and pH-neutral cleanser.
- Do not use acids, alkalis, or other harsh chemicals for regular cleaning.

- Do not use high-pressure washers as these can change your product drastically without extreme care. This is especially true prior to sealing when the surface of the tiles is more vulnerable to abrasion. Mechanical abrasion using sandpaper, power sanders, or rough bristled brushes should also be avoided.
- It is also important to understand that although properly sealed concrete tile has minimal porosity it is still porous. Being porous means, it will absorb the environment around it and will develop a unique patina reflecting those conditions. Thus, interior applications may maintain their original look for many years while the look of outdoor installations may change dramatically and quickly.
- The concrete can scratch if subjected to heavy, sharp objects dragged across the surface. Furniture should have chair glides or felt pads and simply lifting the furniture rather than dragging it over the floor will help.
- Cover pallets or store them indoors to protect them from the elements and other trades.
- Water intrusion can damage tiles and the installation.

For additional concrete specific instructions and recommendations refer to the Chapter 19 Concrete Tile Installation Details, Concrete Tile Wall and Floor Installation Recommendations, Concrete Cleaning & Maintenance Tips, and Concrete Sealing Guide on JeffreyCourt.com.

⚠ WARNING: This product can expose you to chemicals including crystalline silica which is known to the State of California to cause cancer. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.

DANGER Can cause serious injury to eyes, skin, & respiratory tract or allergic reaction. Repeated inhalation of respirable crystalline silica may cause cancer. **KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.** When cutting product wear a NIOSH approved respirator. Contains portland cement: avoid contact with skin & eyes. Wash contaminated clothing before reuse. **FIRST AID:** If swallowed, inhaled, or skin irritation occurs get medical attention. If on skin: wash with plenty of water. If in eyes: rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses and continue rinsing. Dispose of in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations. For more information, see the SDS at www.jeffreycourt.com.

Merchandising

The marketing and merchandising of this collection is supported by montage boards, touch boards, and A&D sample cards. All of these point-of-purchase materials are accompanied by the Chapter 19 European Countryside catalog. Showroom installation and loose sample pieces can also be ordered.

Visit our website, JeffreyCourt.com/EuropeanCountryside, to explore the entire European Countryside collection.