In many Roman buildings – where small parts of the walls are preserved – pavements can still be seen today. It is quite evident that those who used them knew their importance and how to use them. More specifically, the importance of the pavement was twofold: on one hand, it protected the stone foundation of the house, and on the other hand, it decorated the floor of the building.

In early republican times, starting from the I century B.C., mosaic pavements were decorated with colored stones of irregular shape; later on, the stones became made of small crushed fragments of bricks and lime, was imperishable and waterproof.

In early republican times, starting from the II century B.C., opus signinum pavements were decorated with colored stones of regular shape. The stones were made with blue or red stones of local provenance.

In many Roman buildings – where small parts of the walls are preserved – pavements containing tesserae and drawings disappeared. Depending on the period, the use of mosaic pavement varied greatly in the different parts of the building. In early centuries B.C., mosaic pavements were used only in important public buildings and in private buildings of the rich. They were made with blue or red stones of local provenance.

In republican times – the ‘golden era’ of the Roman Empire – pavements, decorated with colored stones, were made in a Roman house, compared to a simple corridor. The use of mosaic pavement varied greatly in the different parts of the building. The most important rooms of the building had the most important mosaic pavement.

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