



Information From Your Terrazzo Contractor

Thank you for choosing _____ for your terrazzo project. As a member of the National Terrazzo & Mosaic Association (NTMA), our company adheres to strict guidelines of the association. If required, the association will provide this project with professional guidance and support. _____ has been in business since _____. Today we offer a full menu of flooring solutions.

Pre-Construction and Installation Considerations

Job Name: _____

Reviewed By: _____

Pre-Construction & Installation Considerations

With proper pre-construction planning and the combined efforts of the owner/architect, construction manager and flooring contractor, many installation problems can be minimized and even eliminated. The following are considerations that are not always clarified in specifications and drawings. Proper job site meetings at the right time will eliminate problems and errors at the time of installation.



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Substrate/Slab Conditions

Normal Weight Concrete

New normal weight concrete slabs require a minimum of 28 days of cure time. We recommend not using a curing compound, 3,500 psi with effective vapor barrier.

If lightweight concrete has been used on the project, contact us immediately so that we may discuss your options.

Concrete Pour

Concrete Pour cannot vary more than 1/4 inch from true plane in 10 feet. Epoxy terrazzo, as specified, is not intended to level substrate and will only follow the contour of the concrete slab. If, for any reason, the subcontractor questions the suitability of the substrate for bonding, any work required to eliminate non-conformity of subsurface specifications is the responsibility of others, any materials used to correct nonconformity must be compatible with the epoxy system selected and be approved by the terrazzo contractor.

Use a Vapor Barrier Beneath Slabs on Grade

An efficient vapor barrier is needed directly under the concrete slab (suggested minimum: 15 mils thickness). Do not place compacted granular fill or sand between the slab and vapor barrier.

Minimum Water/Cement Ratio

A usable water/cement ratio is 0.40-0.45. Water reducing agents and super plasticizers can be used to aid in the placement.

Steel Trowel Finish

A light steel trowel is needed to provide a hard finish with minimum burnishing. The concrete should not be so tightly closed that it shines.

Wet Cure, If Possible

We curing is the preferred method of curing slabs to receive resinous systems. Any other form of curing will require mechanical abrasion such as shot blasting to remove curing contaminants.

Proper Saw Cutting of Slabs to Prevent Cracking

Saw cut joints should be minimum 1/3 the slab depth (the deeper the better, but completely to the edge of the slab) and must be made before the concrete starts to cool and as soon as the concrete surface is firm enough not to be torn or damaged by the blade. Width of saw cut joints shall not exceed 1/8" in width. All concrete pours should stop on a straight line where a terrazzo divider strip will not be objectionable. Exposed "end of day" pours should be protected to avoid chipping and a resulting ragged edge that will not be covered by our strip. If it is chipped, the entire concrete edge should be cut back to a straight line to the most distant chipped point prior to the next pour. The location and spacing of slab joints is to be determined by the Structural Engineer and Architect. It is the intent for the location of slab joints to align with the divider strip layout, as shown on the project documents. In lieu of divider strips directly over sawed control joints, the application of a flexible epoxy membrane can be utilized, as an option.

Site Conditions

Building

The building must be enclosed.

Roof

The building's roof must be watertight.

Temperature

There must be consistent temperature of at least 55 degrees.

Site Conditions (CONTINUED)

Concrete Cracks

Prior to the installation of the terrazzo, we will inspect the concrete for any cracking. If there is minimal cracking, we will place an anti-fracture membrane over the cracks. This procedure helps in preventing cracks from mirroring through the finished floor. This is merely a preventative measure and not a guarantee that the crack will not mirror through to the floor. If the cracking is severe, we will require that the entire slab be covered with an anti-fracture membrane. In this case, an up charge price will be forwarded to you for approval.

*If specifications call for a full substrate anti-fracture membrane, an up charge would not apply.

Design

If a pattern is specified, we strongly recommend that you contact our office prior to pouring the concrete in order to discuss the placement of saw cuts. Wherever there is a saw cut or cold joint, we will need to honor it with a divider strip. This procedure will allow for control of any cracking in the floor. If cold joints are in place, we will place strips back to back for control. If there are saw cut joints, a single L strip will be placed.

Electricity

Crews will require single phase 220 power with a minimum of 60 amp service. Our shot blasting equipment requires three phase 208 power with 60 amp service or 440 power with 30 or 60 amp service. Large grinders are 3 phase, 440 power with 60 amp.

Lighting

Good lighting is necessary to the installation process.

Water

Water is required for the grinding and polishing process.

Dumpster

In order to dispose of grinding residue, a dumpster or an area for disposal is necessary.

Overhead Work

We recommend that all overhead work such as sprinklers, heating, air and ceiling grids be complete prior to scheduling the terrazzo installation.

Painters

The painters should only prime the walls prior to the terrazzo installation. The painters would follow the terrazzo installation with the final coats of paint. The terrazzo crew will plastic and tape the walls in order to protect the primed walls.

Finishes

Tile, Carpet & Cabinetry that meets or sits on our terrazzo should be completed after terrazzo is finished.

Doors

The installation of doors should be done after the terrazzo has been completed.

Protecting Finished Floors

Protecting the floors from other trades is the responsibility of the General Contractor and is highly recommended. We advocate a product like "Ram Board" or "Builder Board" be placed on the floors with a 1/4" masonite or plywood creating a 4'x8' walkway.