



# NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

[www.ntma.com](http://www.ntma.com)

800.323.9736

TECHNICAL BULLETIN #S-12

8/13

---

(Formerly TB#25)

## SUBSTRATE FOR BONDED TERRAZZO

This system's performance is wholly dependent on the concrete substrate to which it is attached. The terrazzo contractor should inspect such substrates before commencing work. If the condition of the surface will adversely affect the performance of the finished terrazzo, such defects should be brought to the attention of the general contractor and the architect. Some common problems are:

1. Use of a liquid curing agent on the substrate will prevent bonding of the terrazzo. To obtain a bond when a curing agent is used, it is necessary to open the pores of the concrete slab by abrading the surface by grinding. Expenses for the abrading, unless called for in the terrazzo specifications, should be the responsibility of others. Claims that a curing agent will dissipate with water or air are seldom true. Do not rely on the curing compound dissipating with water or air.
2. A common substrate problem is the presence of structural cracks. The terrazzo contractor is cautioned to photograph, chart and report in writing any structural cracks that could interfere with the performance of the floor. Such open cracks should not be ignored since these cracks will eventually appear on the surface of the finished terrazzo.
3. The minimum thickness for bonded terrazzo is 1 3/4 inches. Less thickness will compromise the performance. Less than the desired thickness should be brought to the attention of the general contractor.

**General Disclaimer:** *The information provided in the Technical Bulletin is for general informational purposes only. Each project and individual application are unique. All information is provided in good faith: However, NTMA makes no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability, or completeness of any information provided herein.*