



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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TECHNICAL BULLETIN #S-2

8/13

(Formerly TB#44)

COLOR VARIATIONS IN CEMENT TERRAZZO

This bulletin provides an explanation of why there is often a difference in color or shading between the field and the border on a completed cement terrazzo application when the same formula has been used for both. This condition is quite normal with most terrazzo applications but is more noticeable with darker formulations.

Terrazzo is manually installed at the job site, and the process is often modified to fit varying job conditions. When the terrazzo topping is placed, it is compacted by rollers or machines to extract excess cement and water. This process creates the density of marble chip exposure for the ultimate surface finish of the product. Obviously, with this type of equipment, the field or open areas get more attention than the wall or border areas. Thus, there can be a varying density of chip exposure between the two areas.

In the grinding operation, there are several types of machines designed for various functions in finishing a terrazzo application. Each machine operates at varying revolutions per minute. The field grinder operates at a slower rate than a border grinder. The difference in speeds can produce a variation in color in the marble chips. This difference cannot be detected while the floor is in a wet or damp condition; it is noticeable only after the floor is thoroughly dry.

This variation in color usually will even out and eventually be almost inconspicuous with the normal recommended maintenance program. The machines used for maintenance will give uniformity to the surface in a short amount of time.

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