



# NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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800.323.9736

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## TREATMENT OF CRACKS IN TERRAZZO

A thin-set terrazzo system's performance depends on the condition of the existing concrete slab. Quite often, the slab quality is less than desirable. Even attempts to repair cracks before applying the terrazzo topping result in many of the cracks still appearing on the finished surface. Epoxy resin applied over fiberglass cloth does rectify the problem in some cases but is not always completely effective. Where there is extensive cracking of a slab to receive epoxy terrazzo, it may be prudent to cover the entire area with a flexible liquid-applied crack suppression membrane.

If open cracks appear in the terrazzo surface, they can normally be traced back to the slab surface. It is characteristic of cement products to have surface shrinkage cracks so fine that they can be only seen when the surface is damp. This should not be construed to be an inferior application, as it has no effect on the integrity of the floor system. With this type of crack, it is suggested that they not be disturbed. With normal maintenance, such minute voids tend to close and eventually disappear as routine floor sealers penetrate/fill the voids.

## SUGGESTED PROCEDURE FOR REPAIRING CRACKS IN TERRAZZO

1. Remove all sealers from the surface adjacent to the void. Rout the void and remove all loose material.
2. Blend the materials to match the color matrix by adding marble dust or pigment.
3. Place mixed materials into the void.
4. If the void is large enough and the intent is to disguise the line so it will blend into the rest of the floor, place aggregate matching the floor blend along the line. Tool off surface and allow it to cure.
5. When the material has hardened, sand the surface with a hand sander or small grinding tool using fine stones and then seal.
6. For some time, this area will be noticeable. With normal maintenance, however, the area will blend into the balance of the floor.

If there is continued movement the crack may re-open or move to a new location.

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