



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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PROCEDURE FOR PATCHING CEMENT TERRAZZO

Proper technique provides rewarding results. Be advised before commencing such work that a new terrazzo patch or added section will not initially match the existing floor. While the terrazzo contractor may have used the identical formula as the original floor, the results will not always be an exact match due to the following reasons:

The existing floor will have been subjected to maintenance procedures including sealers, waxes, and cleaners, all of which contribute to a change in floor color. The new terrazzo has yet to experience the sealers and cleaners that will change the overall color of the floor.

Marble is a product of nature. Although the new and the old have been mined from the same quarry, veining characteristics of the marble can change. **The color of the marble is beyond anyone's control.**

Because of UV light, maintenance and the natural aging process, the initial appearance of a patch may be different from the existing floor. However, it will eventually blend to attain a close match with normal maintenance and use.

It is suggested that consideration be given to resurfacing the entire old floor to restore the original finish, which will result in a closer match for the new patch.

Prepare void to receive new terrazzo by using a power saw or hand tools to cut a vertical wall into the existing terrazzo surrounding the void.

If the void or patch is of a small size, such as a 6-inch square or less, slightly undercut at the base of this edge. In some instances, a strip may be added next to the saw cut line for aesthetics or for cracking and movement purposes.

Remove all foreign matter from the surface to achieve proper bond and saturate void. Apply cement paste and scrub into the surface. Do not allow cement paste to dry before placing terrazzo composition.

Predetermine color of existing marble chips and matrix. Make any necessary modifications to achieve a close match of the existing terrazzo. We recommend a sample be made and submitted for approval before terrazzo placement.

With a ratio of 2 parts blended marble chips to 1 part of cement, add enough water to make plastic, place composition and level with a trowel. Seed additional marble chips of the same blend over the patch. Compact and extract excess cement and water from the composition.

Cover with paper or polyethylene sheeting to prevent rapid dehydration.

In the initial grind, use a 40 or finer grit stone until aggregate is exposed. Next, pass over area using 80 grit stone. Then thoroughly clean the area before grouting with the matching cement mixture. Cover the grouted surface with paper or polyethylene for at least 72 hours unless a cement accelerator is used. Perform final polishing with an 80 or finer grit stone. Seal patch with a penetrating type of terrazzo sealer.

Given time and proper maintenance, the new patch will ordinarily blend virtually inconspicuously into the balance of the existing terrazzo.

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