



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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RESTORATION OF TERRAZZO FLOOR & BASE

Prior to beginning the restoration process, all topical sealers and finishes must be removed. Once all sealers and finishes have been removed, grind with coarse grit stones or diamonds. Fine mesh silica sand can also be used if needed, all in the presence of water. Initial grinding for base can be done dry if needed with a vacuum attachment for dust collection.

Follow the initial coarse grind with medium grit stones or diamonds in the presence of water. This step for base can be done dry, if necessary, with a vacuum attachment for dust collection.

Cleanse the floor and base with clean water. Rinse thoroughly.

Remove excess rinse water and machine or hand-apply appropriate grout, to fill pinholes and other voids in the surface matching the matrix of the terrazzo floor. Make sure voids and pinholes are filled. Allow grout to cure prior to proceeding with the polishing process. Epoxy grout must cure for a minimum of 24 hours unless an accelerated hardener is used.

For cement terrazzo systems, cover the floor with polyethylene to prevent rapid dehydration of the grout.

The grout shall remain on the surface for a minimum of 72 hours unless a cement modifier is used.

Polish with fine grit stones or diamonds until all traces of the grout have been removed from the terrazzo surface. Base can be polished dry, if necessary, with a vacuum attachment for dust collection.

Thoroughly wash all surfaces with a neutral cleaner. Rinse with clean water and allow it to dry thoroughly.

Apply sealer per manufacturer's directions.

Optional: In toilet rooms, apply one or two coats of a UV stable chemical resistant sealer beneath and around the urinals to protect against the staining from urine.

Note: All work shall be executed with conventional terrazzo grinding equipment according to trade practice.

Note: Many options for high finish systems are available. The above instructions are the NTMA's baseline standard for refinishing terrazzo. Consult your local NTMA Terrazzo Contractor for additional information regarding other high finish options for terrazzo.

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