



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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FIXED PROJECTIONS IN SAND CUSHION TERRAZZO

A floating, un-bonded terrazzo system is listed in Association publications as the sand cushion system. The design requires that this 2-1/2-inch-thick system must be free to move independent of the supporting substrate. This is accomplished by a dusting of sand that acts as a parting agent.

Fixed embeds in the substrate, such as metal ducts or electrical conduits, will defeat the intent of this designed system. If this condition does exist, it is the responsibility of the terrazzo contractor to alert his general contractor to the potential problem.

It is trade practice to wrap galvanized diamond metal lath or wire reinforcement mesh over such projections. Regardless of how you prepare these areas, cracks are a distinct possibility and beyond the control of the terrazzo contractor.

If these obstructions are limited and exist only in remote areas, it is still possible to maintain the floating terrazzo system in areas away from the conduits. Create two control joints parallel to the sides of the conduits and bond the terrazzo system directly over and around the obstructions. Although there is no guarantee, the vicinity of the bond at these junctions would isolate the bonded areas from the balance of the floating floor system. Thus, it could help prevent any distress that might develop in the terrazzo at these points from creeping beyond the control joints.

If the obstructions are general throughout the entire area where terrazzo is required, you have no choice other than bonding the terrazzo system to minimize the cracking possibilities. If the obstruction cannot be buried in the concrete substrate, which is normal when this system of terrazzo is selected, they must be anchored tight to the slab and followed by the wrapping of the metal lath or wire mesh.

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