



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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SHADE VARIATIONS IN CEMENT TERRAZZO FLOOR & BASE

White and gray Portland cement may not be uniform in color and may produce a shade variation in the matrix of the terrazzo floor and base.

The installation process of terrazzo base and the border is executed in a different manner compared to the terrazzo floor. When Portland cement is used in the topping, it is normal to expect some variations in the color between the two areas even if the same formulation has been duplicated.

The floor system is a fluid mixture placed, seeded, and compacted with heavy steel rollers that extract the excess cement and water. The base and border installation process requires a drier mix using a minimal amount of water in the terrazzo composition for attachment to the vertical surface. When working this material with hand tools only, the vertical base does not receive the same compaction that is present in the floor work. Aggregate density difference can often create a noticeable color variation between the floor and the base.

Precast base and stair treads may present this same issue of color variances because they are cast and finished in a shop rather than on site.

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