



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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TECHNICAL BULLETIN #S-6

8/13

(Formerly TB#15)

CONTROL JOINTS IN SAND CUSHION TERRAZZO

The position of the divider strips is essential to the performance of sand cushion terrazzo. The metal strips are inserted into the under-bed furnished by the terrazzo contractor. If and where further control joints are required, double divider strips placed back-to-back will handle practically any slab movement. PRE-FORMED NEOPRENE FILLER BETWEEN TWO METAL DIVIDER STRIPS FOR THESE SYSTEMS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED. While it typically has adequate compressive strength, the downside is high tensile properties and virtually no elongation properties. If the neoprene separates from the metal strips on either side during shrinkage, the results are unsightly and commonly lead to maintenance problems.

Many terrazzo contractors use temporary filler in lieu of neoprene. Upon completion of the terrazzo system, remove this temporary filler and fill it with a pourable flexible sealant. This normally occurs several weeks after the initial placement of the terrazzo topping after the majority of the shrinkage has taken place.

In a sand cushion terrazzo system, it is not normally necessary to position control joints directly over the slab joints since the sand and polyethylene sheeting are utilized.

Where a metal expansion plate has been designed into a floor slab, it is normally positioned to be a part of the finished surface. This would indicate that the designer expects considerable movement at these junctions. The terrazzo should butt these plates with a metal strip between the terrazzo and the plate.

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