



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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CEMENT TERRAZZO SYSTEM USING FINE AGGREGATE

The NTMA does not recommend a 100% fine aggregate system.

This bulletin deals with terrazzo floor systems using 100% fine aggregate in sizes 1/8 inch or less.

If a system of fine aggregate in a terrazzo topping is specified and installed, the following may result:

Surface checking may occur. These shrinkage-type hairline fissure “mud cracks” normally develop during the initial cure period.

There may be dislodging of the fine aggregate during the initial grinding operation. When using 100% fine aggregate, the matrix could lose some of the strength normally provided by the larger aggregate. Furthermore, the fine aggregate does not achieve the necessary bond with the cement binder to withstand the initial shock of the grinding. Thus, the chips are potentially more easily dislodged.

Discoloration may occur. The surface may appear to cure unevenly due to the 1/8 inch thickness of the terrazzo topping. Cement terrazzo systems are designed to incorporate #1 and #2 size chips. A maximum of 15% fine chips can be considered in combination with the larger size chips.

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