



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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DIVIDER STRIPS FOR THIN-SET CEMENT TERRAZZO SYSTEMS

This bulletin deals with the two designed strips used with thin-set terrazzo systems: the T-strip and the L-strip, which is also known as the angle strip.

A performance study of the T-strip concluded that this strip should not be used with cement terrazzo for the following reasons:

The design of this strip provides a wide horizontal metal flange that projects out on both sides to support the vertical portion of this strip. Although it provided an excellent surface to adhere to the substrate, it also provided a weak factor to terrazzo systems. It is generally understood that cement products do not bond as well to metal. Thus, when this strip is used, the material bridging over the metal flange becomes a possible problem. If the finished surface area receives a sharp impact, this could result in a crack running parallel to the strip. If the impact covers the overall area of this strip line, both sides could be affected in the same manner.

We are now suggesting the use of the L-strip, which has a single horizontal foot or flange. We suggest that the epoxy-adhesive be spread on the upper side of the flange while anchoring such strips to the substrate. While the epoxy is still in a plastic state, sprinkle fine grit, such as fine sand/marble chips, to create a mechanical bond for the terrazzo topping on the horizontal flange.

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