



# NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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## DECORATIVE METAL INSERTS IN TERRAZZO

Where decorative metal inserts are specified, architects, designers and owners need to be aware of the following:

1. Very hard metals such as stainless steel are extremely difficult to grind and polish. Swirl marks from rough grinding are usually not removable and it is not possible to restore a very smooth polished surface with stainless steel. Accordingly, we do not recommend stainless steel inserts.
2. Because the metal of the insert is usually of greater resistance to the grinding equipment than the surrounding terrazzo, the insert is typically higher than the floor. This phenomenon is more prominent with the harder and larger metal inserts. White alloys of zinc or brass are the best insert materials.
3. Aluminum should not be used with Portland cement terrazzo because of the chemical reaction that discolors and potentially deteriorates the aluminum.

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