



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

www.ntma.com

800.323.9736

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MARBLE CHIP SELECTION

Terrazzo is known for its versatility. A wide color range of marble chips and matrix combinations available, but with certain blends of marble chips, some words of caution should be brought to the attention of all persons involved.

It is the intent of the established terrazzo contractor to strive for the quality demanded of this job-manufactured product. The ingredients of the terrazzo composition further require the best of available materials, but since the marble chips are provided from nature, we have learned from trade experience that certain colors can be a problem. This can be related to hardness, veining or color.

Often a new terrazzo floor does not have the immediate aesthetics we all desire, and there is nothing the terrazzo contractor can do but request that proper maintenance and reasonable patience be indulged. During the cure of any cement-type product, its by-products, called efflorescence, are released. It is very important that good housekeeping procedures remove this efflorescence as it appears.

When certain marble chips are selected, such as 100% black marble chips in a black Portland cement matrix, the floor will possibly not immediately result in the desired appearance. However, the true color and patina will emerge after a period of normal traffic service and maintenance.

Furthermore, be aware that the available black marble chips have some white veining. Therefore, the chips will contain a small amount of white, usually less than 5%.

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