



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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CURING AGENTS

This bulletin deals with cure seal/membrane type evaporation retarding agents used on concrete substrates to which a terrazzo or industrial floor system is to be applied. The following information is a caution for terrazzo contractors.

Liquid curing agents are designed to control the rapid cure of the concrete substrate. Some manufacturers claim that the agent will not interfere with the bond of the finished floor surface since it will reportedly dissipate within a short period.

Regardless of the type, manufacturer or application method, use of curing compounds will create a surface that may not allow the subsequent flooring materials to bond. If used before the terrazzo contractor can proceed with his installation, this floor surface will have to be mechanically abraded by a grinder, shot blasted or scarified to open the pores of the concrete surface to allow a good bond. Obviously, there is an additional cost to for this extra work. However, if this procedure is ignored, there will be a probable loss of adhesion once the finished floor material is installed.

New concrete should not be cured with a topical chemical agent that becomes a barrier to proper bonding of the terrazzo system.

Accordingly, the terrazzo contractor or **owner's** representative must check on the substrate before commencing the application. A suggested simple test would be to pour water on the surface. If it does not immediately penetrate or if it beads up, this normally indicates some form of sealer is on the surface. Better yet, place a test patch of your materials. If it does not bond appropriately, go on record immediately with your general contractor and refuse to proceed further until a surface that will achieve a bond is provided. A direct tensile bond test may be necessary to provide a quantitative result.

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