



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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SELF-LEVELING UNDERLAYMENTS

Self-leveling underlayments are commonly used to flatten/correct an irregular concrete surfacing. These products are extensively used under “soft” floor coverings, such as carpeting and sheet vinyl, etc.

These products may include cement as well as gypsum material. These are reportedly designed to develop a cured compressive strength greater than 4000 psi and a flexural strength of over 1,000 psi.

However, none of these products have proven to be universally compatible when used as an underlayment for thin-set terrazzo systems.

These products have a history of problems when used in conjunction with epoxy terrazzo. A common problem is a cohesive or internal failure of the self-leveling material. Additionally, products used in the presence of water, such as cement terrazzo, exhibit a weakened substrate surface that creates the bond failure.

The NTMA does not recommend these type products be used in combination with thin-set terrazzo products.

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