



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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PURPOSE OF DIVIDER STRIPS IN TERRAZZO FLOORS

Whether they are plastic or metal, such as a white alloy of zinc or brass, thin or heavy gauge, divider strips have a function in all terrazzo systems. This function varies with each system to minimize or control structural and shrinkage cracks, permit creation of design or provide a neat transition between terrazzo and other materials.

Strips made specifically for terrazzo are to be used. Tile/stone strips are not to be used.

PORTLAND CEMENT SYSTEMS

Because of varying thicknesses, the divider strips are essential to the performance of the floor. The position of such strips is dictated by system thickness. Normally, sand cushion requires a panel grid of 5 ft. or less on centers, while for the bonded or monolithic systems; the strips can be positioned to the expanded spacing of 6 or 8 ft. centers.

EPOXY SYSTEMS

Epoxy terrazzo systems can allow greater spacing between divider strips. Being a veneer-type system bonded to a concrete slab, its behavior is wholly dependent on the slab movement. Strips are essential to be positioned directly over all breaks in the substrate, such as construction or expansion-type joints.

Brass strips are generally not recommended for universal use with epoxy system unless the epoxy formulator and strip supplier approve.

RUSTIC SYSTEMS

Rustic terrazzo systems are normally Portland cement with various thicknesses. Divider strips or control joints are essential to the performance of the finished product. The position of the strips or joints, normally set at 4 to 8 ft. on centers, is wholly dependent on the thickness of the system. For exterior use, plastic and brass strips are recommended. In addition, the method of temporary wood filler, later removed and the void filled with a flexible sealant on all working joints is fine. Non-working joints can be filled with a grout. White alloy of zinc strips is not recommended for exterior use.

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