NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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AFTERMARKET POLISHING TREATMENTS

Over the years there has been an increase in the degrees of polish of terrazzo floors by owners to increase the NTMA standard 120 grit finish to achieve a much greater shine. These finishes go by names such as crystallization, natural high hone, and high diamond polishing. For the most part the results have been very positive in eliminating the normal "strip and reseal" maintenance of topical sealers, as well as reducing the use of floor finish coats to produce a very shiny as well as less scuff-able floor.

However, these grinding processes can expose pinholes and leave a floor pitted if an aggressive honing is necessary to produce the desired results. If some aftermarket finishes, high heat is produced and can cause an "orange peel" effect on an epoxy terrazzo finish. As an association we advise owners to have any of these initial treatments performed by an experienced terrazzo contractor who can determine if the floor will need to be re-grouted after this first-time aggressive grinding/polishing treatment. Subsequent super fine polishing treatments or maintenance could be accomplished by others (owner's maintenance staff or contractor) trained in these processes.

If the owner's choses to bypass the NTMA terrazzo contractor for the initial diamond grinding/polishing treatment, after the floor has been finished to the 120 grit NTMA finish standard, the floor should be thoroughly inspected and accepted prior to the process starting. Transferring this process by someone other than the installing terrazzo contractor would mean acceptance of the original floor installation finish.