



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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Reflective Finishes in Terrazzo

General:

Today's highly reflective finishes are very popular in terrazzo flooring. This can look very sleek, modern, and indeed have mirror like qualities. However, as with all things in life there are tradeoffs. The higher degree of reflectivity on the floor surface, the greater the likelihood of highlighting the appearance of waves in the terrazzo floor. Terrazzo is poured, allowed to set and then ground in place. It requires skill and special equipment. Perfection is unattainable and unrealistic to demand. Floors should be appealing and within industry tolerances.

Light:

Overhead lighting or critical illumination for a highly reflective Terrazzo floor will have an impact on how the floor appears.

Highly reflective floors may make terrazzo floors that are within established tolerances, appear wavy. This is due in part to the reflective or refractive values of light and the high reflectivity.

Tolerances:

Epoxy and monolithic terrazzo are typically an overlay on concrete slabs. The flatness of the slab will have an impact on the flatness of the finished terrazzo. 1/4 inch under a ten (10) foot straight edge (not cumulative) is the industry standard for the tolerance of flatness for concrete and finished terrazzo floors.

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