



# NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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## ALIGNMENT OF TERRAZZO DIVIDERS OVER CONCRETE JOINTS

The standard for terrazzo strip straightness is  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in 10 ft. However, strips located over concrete joints must precisely follow the concrete joint even if the joints vary beyond the  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in 10 ft. straightness because the terrazzo will crack away from the strip if the strips do not follow the concrete joint. It is dangerous to try to straighten the crooked concrete joint by adjusting the strip to where the horizontal leg of the divider is over any part of the joint because it would create a crack in the terrazzo off the toe of the horizontal leg of an L-divider strip. The terrazzo contractor should always follow with the vertical member of the terrazzo divider strip being set consistent with the edge of concrete joint.

Imprecise divider strips over irregular concrete joints beyond the  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in 10 ft. tolerance for strips not located over concrete joints, then the only known solution is to replace the concrete panels on both sides of the concrete joint in question and redo the concrete joint so it is straight. Alternatively, depending on the severity of the crooked joint, the strip spacing can be increased to accommodate the widest points. This would be filled with flexible filler that matches the matrix color of the adjacent terrazzo, and then ground and polished in the normal method.

An alternative option to the above would be to epoxy mortar fill the original crooked joint and make a new straight concrete joint with a saw cut 100% through the slab. All concerned should be aware that the original crooked joint has a high probability of re-cracking and reflecting a fissure through the terrazzo topping.

Unightly as it may appear, unless the concrete is replaced, an irregular line divider in appearance is superior to having a straight divider with an adjacent crooked crack in the terrazzo. Only in sand cushion terrazzo, where the terrazzo system is isolated from the concrete joints, would there not normally be a concern for the straightness of the concrete joint.

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