



# NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

[www.ntma.com](http://www.ntma.com)

800.323.9736

TECHNICAL BULLETIN #G-6

08/13

---

(Formerly TB#21)

## ABRASIVE AGGREGATE NON-SLIP LINES FOR RAMPS & STAIRS

This bulletin deals with new and existing terrazzo floor systems where it is necessary to create a non-slip system for safety purposes, such as a ramp, entrance area or stairs.

Abrasive aggregate non-slip lines are a possible solution. Normally, such strips are positioned about 6 inches apart across the ramp perpendicular to traffic, and stop about 8 inches from the wall line. The width of each line is normally 3/8 inch, and each strip is elevated about 1/16 inch above the terrazzo surface.

On stair treads, a designer can opt to specify one to three safety lines. The first line typically begins 1 inch from the nosing and, depending on the design intent, spans end-to-end or stops about 3 inches from the ends.

There are various methods of installation of such safety lines, including;

- (1) the prefabricated strip that is placed in a void created by saw cutting
- (2) the poured system, using the proper epoxy and silicon carbide or aluminum oxide material mix and placing it in the void created by saw-cutting.

For new installations, place U-channels before the initial installation. Fill with backer-rod foam material to avoid overspill. After the final seal, remove backer rods and clean channel. Fill with resinous abrasive mix.

With the prefabricated system, it is necessary to cut a groove 3/8 inch wide and 3/8 inch deep to insert the strip. In the second system, it is normal to cut 1/4 to 3/8 inch wide but only 1/4 inch deep.

## ABRASIVE AGGREGATE NON-SLIP LINES FOR TERRAZZO TREADS

There are two recommended procedures for installing such inserts:

1. Placing a metal U-channel in the proper locations before placing the terrazzo topping. Each channel is filled with a material, such as a backer rod, to prevent the composition from penetrating the voids. After the installation and completion of the grinding, grouting and polishing, the temporary backer rod shall be removed along with any foreign materials from the U-channels.
2. Upon completion of the terrazzo work, saw cut lines 1/4 inch to 3/8 inch wide by 1/4 inch deep according to the abrasive strip pattern. Alternatively, you may place a wooden or durable foam filler strip 3/8 x 3/8 inch in the tread, removed after final finishing.

## INSERTION OF RESINOUS ABRASIVE MIX

1. Carefully mask terrazzo surface on either side of the open channel to protect the surface and to establish the proper elevation with one or two layers of the masking tape.
2. Trowel blended epoxy/abrasive granular mortar mixture into the channels and tool to the height of the masking tape, a minimum of 1/16 inch above the adjacent terrazzo surface.
3. Immediately remove masking tape from the terrazzo surface while the mix is still in a plastic condition and allow the abrasive mix to cure before opening the stairway for traffic.

*Note: Prefabricated abrasive strips are an option.*

## SEALING TERRAZZO WITH ABRASIVE STRIPS

When abrasive inserts are utilized, the terrazzo surface can be sealed with the proper acrylic sealer to enhance aesthetics. No sealers should be applied to the abrasive strips.

## RECOMMENDED COLORS

We do not recommend using light-colored abrasive strips due to maintenance factors.

Please refer and adhere to all building codes for placement of abrasive strips

**General Disclaimer:** *The information provided in the Technical Bulletin is for general informational purposes only. Each project and individual application are unique. All information is provided in good faith: However, NTMA makes no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, adequacy, validity, reliability or completeness of any information provided herein.*