



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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AGGREGATE CHARACTERISTICS

The Los Angeles Abrasion Test ASTM C131-89 is used to determine values for each type of chip available. Care should be exercised in this selection of chips to ensure proper performance of the finished surface.

The following broad classifications are suggested as a guide:

1. Relatively soft chips: 36-26
2. Moderately hard chips: 25-20
3. Harder chips: 19-11 (able to receive a polish)
4. Extremely hard aggregates: 10 and below (usually not marble and requiring special grinding procedures).
These are usually used in unpolished form such as rustic terrazzo and textured mosaics. Where polished terrazzo floors containing these hard aggregates are required for design or functional reason, additional grinding costs must be anticipated. Specifiers should be notified accordingly.

ABSORPTION

Any chip with high absorption should be used with caution. A high absorption rate can cause an unsightly appearance and a maintenance problem. If improper cleaners are used on a highly absorbent chip, soluble salts may penetrate and cause fracturing. This “pitting” manifestation sometimes gives the surface an appearance of not having been grouted.

Aggregate with a high absorption rate may show a halo around each chip when used in epoxy terrazzo. The aggregate absorbs the epoxy during the curing process. The aggregate will have the original color at the center and a darker outline.

DUSTING

Dust content can change the color and character of a terrazzo floor, and in extreme cases, has caused rejection of a terrazzo floor. Minimal handling will help to keep dust content down.

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