



# NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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## RUSTIC TERRAZZO SYSTEMS

Rustic terrazzo installed according to this Association's published guide specifications will provide an exterior walking surface with the longevity, aesthetics and safe walking surface for which terrazzo systems are known. The following are items of caution. To achieve the desired results, it is essential that the installer have the necessary expertise to execute this work. The rustic terrazzo system involves being able to create a uniform texture of the aggregate on the finished surface along with tightness and flatness of the aggregate. Etching the matrix between the aggregate takes skill to avoid loss of aggregate. Too little etching can affect the aesthetics.

If the location of the installation is in a cold climate, a liquid air-entraining agent should be incorporated (6% air plus or minus 1%) to minimize freeze-thaw cycle damage in the under-bed. Packaged air-entraining cement should not be considered. Air-entraining agent has no effect on the rustic topping unless 8% of fine silica sand is added to the cement/aggregate composition. Installation temperature should be maintained at a minimum of 45°F around the clock to assure quality results.

There is a choice to be considered relative to control joints in this system. Due to the texture of the finished surface, metal or plastic strips will be exposed on the sides as well as on the top surface. This is often considered a pipeline for moisture penetration. The use of a plastic zip strip provides the means to control the anticipated shrinkage and moisture penetration. The removal of the cap of this strip provides a neat void in which to insert a backer rod and a flexible sealant that would be slightly recessed below the height of the adjacent aggregate surface. The latter system provides function as well as aesthetics to these necessary joints.

The second choice is a saw cutting procedure that must be executed within a 24-hour period following the placement of the rustic terrazzo system. Like the other choice, the saw cuts receive a sealant for function and aesthetics.

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