



# NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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## GLASS AGGREGATE IN EPOXY TERRAZZO

Glass aggregate has become prevalent chip for the design mixtures of terrazzo flooring. Glass chips offer a unique color palette not available with from marble chips, throw in the “green” benefits of recycled glass and you have a very compelling argument for incorporating glass aggregate in your terrazzo design mix.

It is important to understand the technical and performance characteristics of such new products. The National Terrazzo and Mosaic Association (NTMA) has discovered isolated examples of fractured glass in an already installed terrazzo floor.

When 100% or much of the aggregate is either clear glass or very light-colored glass (without contrasting colored aggregates of either glass or marble) and is often used in a dark matrix, the result may be less than desirable. Some of the aggregate may fracture, leaving a “frosty or crystal-like appearance”. This phenomenon may be aggravated by large size and shape of glass such as #2.

The cause of these conditions may be:

- 1) Excessive point load
- 2) Heavy objects being rolled or dropped on the floor.
- 3) Construction abuse.
- 4) Heat/friction during burnishing of floor.

The NTMA suggests you share these “field observations” with designers. The NTMA recommends that clear and light-colored glass in dark matrices be kept to a “design minimum.”

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