



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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BRASS DIVIDER STRIPS IN EPOXY TERRAZZO

While innumerable jobs are installed without significant blue/green staining with brass divider strips, occasionally epoxy matrix and chips can be stained blue/green due to the reaction of brass with some epoxy curing agents, water, and oxygen. This corrosion triangle of the copper content in brass, an amine curing agent and water, in the presence of oxygen creates a blue/green, water-soluble cuprammonium complex. This material can stain epoxy matrix and/or aggregates and adjacent materials. It is more easily seen on light colors of matrix or light colors of aggregate. The phenomenon affects not only brass, but also bronze or any other alloy containing copper.

Other factors including humidity and duration of wet grind pacerina *in situ*, flash cooling and condensation caused by evaporation of some trowel lubricants, and high pH compounds present in sealers or cleaners.

Extraordinary diligence by the terrazzo contractor will lessen the probability of discoloration. However, one cannot always guarantee the total absence of some degree of blue/green staining in epoxy projects where copper-alloy strips and/or inserts are used.

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