



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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VAPOR BARRIER PLACEMENT

Whenever an epoxy terrazzo system is to be installed directly onto a slab on grade or below, a sand layer must be below the vapor barrier.

If the sand bed system is specified, the architect should be advised of the potential problem of latent moisture being retained in the sand bed. With temperature changes, such as the building being heated or cooled, the moisture in the sand may migrate to the surface and may cause random blistering and often significant loss of bond of the terrazzo system.

The current recommendation of ACI 302.1 and ACI 302.2 is an efficient vapor barrier must be placed immediately below the concrete slab. The concrete should be placed with a low water-to-cement ratio, and it should be allowed to hydrate sufficiently before placing a non-breathing floor system. Moisture vapor transmission (MVT) testing is necessary before installing to determine if the slab is ready to be topped.

To be completely prudent, unless full waivers absolving the terrazzo system are in hand, do not take the risk of installing epoxy terrazzo on slab on-grade or below that is not poured directly on an effective vapor barrier. Cases of loss of adhesion of the epoxy have become very common.

Have the provider of that substrate or owners' independent inspection service give the assurances of readiness and performance, especially for moisture, but also cracking and flatness.

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