



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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TECHNICAL BULLETIN #T-19

8/13

(Formerly TB#82-A)

TEMPERATURE PARAMETERS FOR EPOXY TERRAZZO

The installation of thermo-setting reactive materials is significantly affected by ambient factors and especially substrata conditions. Extreme heat and cold will change the viscosity, cure time and workability, all of which affect the quality of the terrazzo installation.

The NTMA recommends the installation of thin-set epoxy terrazzo, including ancillary components like primers, moisture mitigation, crack suppression membranes, etc., proceed only when surface and ambient temperatures are maintained between 60°F and 90°F.

It also should be noted that temporary heating systems, typically called “salamanders” or fuel oil fired blowers, should be properly engineered to avoid build up of CO² or hydrocarbons residue. Such elevated levels of marginal air quality can cause the curing resins to amber or otherwise discolor. This ambering is usually topical and possibly removed in the grinding steps. However, it can be a stubborn stain and may become a particular issue, especially in light colors if it occurs in the grouting phase on the final floor finish.

Consult with your terrazzo contractor to discuss in more detail any temporary heating and other applicable site conditions for a quality installation.

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