



NATIONAL TERRAZZO & MOSAIC ASSOCIATION

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EPOXY TERRAZZO OVER CEMENT TERRAZZO

This bulletin details requirements for installing an epoxy terrazzo floor system over an existing cement terrazzo system.

CLEANING THE SURFACE

The preparation of the floor requires removal of all foreign matter, such as chemical coatings, waxes, and sealers. This should be done by terrazzo grinding machines abrading the existing surface or by shot blasting. An acid bath will not remove sealers or waxes from this surface.

MOISTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Existing terrazzo, particularly sand cushion and bonded systems can hold a lot of moisture. It is imperative that moisture tests be performed, and, if needed, a manufacturer-recommended moisture vapor control system applied.

SELECTING AN UNDERLAYMENT

Once the floor is cleaned and any moisture issues are dealt with, it is essential to use a manufacturer-recommended liquid-applied membrane.

This membrane prevents the divider strips used in the original floor from mirroring or cracking on the new surface. If the existing strip pattern is used in the new work, a membrane over these strips is not required. However, since it is difficult to line up the strips directly, it may be prudent to use the membrane anyway.

FINISHING YOUR SYSTEM

Once the membrane is placed and cured, bond the angle-type divider strips to the membrane in the architect's pattern choice. Once the strips are set, place the topping in accordance with the NTMA specifications for epoxy terrazzo.

SUMMARY

While there is no guarantee that cracks will not appear, the above procedures should be considered a preventative measure. This system has performed successfully on many similar applications.

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