

Terrazzo Datasheet

February 2026

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Terrazzo is an aesthetically striking cement-based marble floor finish applied between 10 and 15mm, and diamond polished to a create a high gloss, hard-wearing surface suited to high traffic areas.

Technical Data

Type	Specially formulated granolithic mix
Colour(s)	See www.cemcrete.co.za
Pot life	20 minutes
Working time	20 minutes
Initial set	1 hour
Mixing water temperature	10°C to 25°C
Application temperature (ambient)	6°C to 25°C
Substrate temperature	6°C to 25°C
Minimum application thickness	10mm (polished down to 8mm)
Maximum application thickness	15mm (polished down to 13mm)
Density	1.8kg / litre
Protection during application	Use wind and sun barriers.

Purpose

To provide a smooth, hard-polished decorative exposed aggregate finish for floors and surfaces. Ideally suited for residential and commercial applications such as retail shops, restaurants, hospitality and lobbies etc. where minimum maintenance is required.

Benefits

- In-situ application with a seamless appearance (dividing strips only needed every 3 x 3 metres).
- 8 - 13mm final thickness.
- Suitable for interior and exterior use (slippery when wet; consider using Cemcrete's Slip Resistant Additive when sealing).
- Rapid strength gain, allows grinding within 3 - 5 days of application (weather dependant).
- Durable surface ideal for commercial or high-foot traffic spaces.
- Easy to clean and maintain.
- Abrasion and impact resistance.

Specifying

Terrazzo is suitable as a decorative wear surface placed on existing concrete and suitable for both residential and commercial floors.

Limitations

- Designed for horizontal surfaces.
- During application ambient temperature must be above 5°C. Protect the surface from freezing for a minimum of 6 hours.
- **Terrazzo** will not repair or conceal existing control joints, isolation joints and structural cracks. These must be honoured in the design of the **Terrazzo** floor.
- Use only on surfaces that are sound, clean, and completely dry. Avoid application in direct sunlight or areas with air movement to reduce the risk of premature drying.

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Joins and Cracks

For application areas larger than 9m², it is recommended to install expansion joints to accommodate expansion and movement of the new surface and control joints to facilitate the ease of application. Existing joints and active cracks should be used as a reference when laying out new expansion joints. In the absence of existing joints or cracks, control joints should be placed at intervals of no more than 3 linear metres (9m²). In long, narrow passages and across doorways, control joints should be considered at intervals of approximately 2 metres.

Masking

For best results, all windows, doors and adjacent surfaces (especially glass or aluminium), should be masked using painter's tape and brown paper to prevent soiling these surfaces during application. All masking material must be removed at the end of the day to avoid fraying the edges of the application, and to prevent plasticizer migration or sticky residue from the tape. Care should be taken when removing the tape to ensure no product is pulled away with it.

Surface Preparation

New concrete surfaces

Substrate must be wood-floated and fully cured for 28 days, with a moisture content below 5% (depending on the surrounding humidity), before **Terrazzo** application commences. Slab / screed must be a minimum of 25 MPa.

The surface must be structurally sound, level, clean, dry and free from any curing agents, laitance and surface contamination (such as dust, dirt, waxes, oils, old adhesives, grease, sealants, weak cement screeds) which may interfere with adhesion. All holes and damaged areas must be repaired prior to the application of **Terrazzo**. A rapid repair mortar can be used for this purpose. It is recommended to first prime shallow holes with Concrete Primer prior to patching. Application over moving joints or cracks will result in cracking and delaminating. All construction, cold joints, structural joints and / or structural cracks which may be dynamic before and / or after the **Terrazzo** application must be extended through to the surface of the **Terrazzo** application in the form of voided joints. All voided joints including saw cuts should be filled with suitable joint filler where applicable.

Existing surfaces

Slab / screed must be a minimum of 25 MPa. It is preferable to grind the surface with a grinder to remove residues and expose the true condition of the substrate. Ensure that all cracks, holes and loose areas are properly repaired before application. A rapid repair mortar can be used for this purpose. It is suggested to first prime shallow holes with Concrete Primer prior to patching. Application over moving joints or cracks will result in cracking and delaminating. All construction joints, cold joints, structural joints, and / or structural cracks that may be subject to movement before or after the **Terrazzo** application must be carried through to the surface as voided joints. All voided joints including saw cuts should be filled with suitable joint filler where applicable.

Priming Options

Option 1

Ensure the surface has been grinded to remove residues and create a mechanical key similar to a wood-floated finish for proper bonding. Install aluminium strip panels using a suitable twin pack epoxy adhesive paste (e.g: Alcolin epoxy-bond or similar). Use fischer plugs alongside the epoxy where floors are uneven. Once set, working one control joint section at a time, apply suitable epoxy adhesive (TAL MT100 epoxy primer or similar), seeded with 1,2mm to 2,4mm silica sand as per the manufacturer's instructions. Allow to cure overnight, or as per the manufacturer's instructions. Once fully cured, remove any loose sand with a broom and vacuum. If bare patches remain apply more epoxy and sand. Once this step is completed, apply Cemcrete's **Terrazzo**.

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Option 2

Ensure the surface has been grinded to remove residues. Floor to be contoured using a floor scarifying machine to create a mechanical key. Install aluminium strip panels using a suitable twin pack epoxy adhesive paste (e.g: Alcolin epoxy-bond or similar). Use fischer plugs alongside the epoxy where floors are uneven. Apply one coat of Cemcrete's Concrete Primer onto the clean, scarified surface. Once this coat becomes tacky, apply a second coat of Concrete Primer. When the second coat is tacky, proceed with the **Terrazzo** application as outlined below.

Application

Step 1

Add 3.6 litres of clean potable water per 40kg bag of **Terrazzo**. Mix thoroughly using a mechanical mixer, until a uniform consistency is achieved. Apply mixed **Terrazzo** at least 10mm thick to allow for 2mm grinding (final thickness ~8mm) using a plastic float (not steel trowel) onto cured epoxy (Priming Option 1) or tacky second coat of Concrete Primer (Priming Option 2) for proper bonding. Ensure the **Terrazzo** is floated level with the guide strips using a straight edge and then a steel trowel can be used to smooth out the surface. Only mix sufficient material to cover each panel, floated flush to the guide strips. Avoid dry joints by completing the application to the entire control joint panel in one continuous operation. Repeat these steps until all areas are completed.

Step 2

Terrazzo must be dry-ground and dry-polished only. On the day following application, and provided the surface is trafficable, cover it with a plastic sheet to prevent premature drying. On the third day, remove the plastic sheeting and allow the surface to dry naturally, depending on weather conditions. On the fourth day, grind a small test area using a floor grinder to assess whether the aggregates are firmly embedded. If they are not, allow an additional day of curing. If the aggregates are stable, proceed with grinding the floor flat until the desired level of aggregate exposure is achieved. Using a suitable floor polishing machine, begin with 50-grit dry resin pads and test a small section. If there are any signs the floor is not ready for polishing - such as sand particles appearing in the dust when rubbed with a finger - stop immediately and allow the floor to cure for another one to two days before resuming. Once polishing commences, progress systematically through the sequence of diamond pad grits, ensuring the surface is ground flat and smooth at each stage. Use a hand polisher for hard-to-reach corners before switching to the next grit. After reaching the 100-grit stage, inspect the surface for pinholes or blemishes. If present, sieve the **Terrazzo** powder to remove the coarse aggregates, ensuring a smooth, consistent slurry for pinhole filling. Mix remaining fine **Terrazzo** powder with water to create a slurry, and squeegee it into the pinholes. Once completely dry, re-polish using a 100-grit pad to remove excess material. Inspect the surface and repeat if necessary. Once all pinholes are filled, densification can begin. Refer to Cemcrete's Densifier Datasheet for detailed application instructions.

Sealing

Polish the surface up to 200-grit, then seal using Cemcrete's MultiPurpose Solvent-Based Sealer or CreteSeal 2K Solvent-Based Sealer. For exterior or wet-area applications requiring increased slip resistance, Cemcrete's Slip-Resistant Additive may be added to the sealer as an optional extra. Refer to the applicable datasheets for detailed application instructions.

Maintenance

Neutral pH cleaners must always be used to prevent surface damage and potential discolouration. For ongoing maintenance, use Cemcrete's CreteCare range (refer to product datasheets for full instructions). Interior floors can be maintained with CreteCare Polish, CreteCare Mop&Shine, and CreteCare Strip&Clean, to clean, preserve the finish, and extend surface longevity. For exterior floors, wet areas, or surfaces treated with Slip-Resistant Additive, only CreteCare Strip&Clean is recommended.

Coverage

40kg **Terrazzo** will cover $\pm 1.6\text{m}^2$ at 10mm thick.

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Packaging

Supplied in 40kg bags; made to order only.

Shelf Life & Storage

6 months after date of invoice when stored in a dry area, off the floor, in unopened, original packaging.

Colours

Please refer to our website: www.cemcrete.co.za for the up to date colour choices. Please note that final colours may vary from those shown on colour charts and samples due to the use of natural aggregates. Variations can also be influenced by site conditions, application methods, and the type of sealer used. It is important to base your final decision on samples applied by the same contractor and under the same conditions as is governed by the relevant contracting parties. We recommend two samples should be made by the contractor, one for the client and one as a retained sample.

Manufacturer's Warranty

Cemcrete warrants that the products manufactured by it shall be free from material defects and will be consistent with its normal high quality. Should any of the products be proven defective, the liability to Cemcrete shall be limited to replacement of the product ex-factory. Cemcrete makes no warranty as to merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose and this warranty is in lieu of all other warranties expressed or implied. The user shall determine the suitability of the product for his intended use and assume all risks and liability in connection therewith.

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