

LA TERRAZZO

Product Guide

Terrazzo tiles were born at the end of the 1800's, simultaneously with the invention of cement, which is used as adhesive for the aggregate. This aggregate is a result of the chipping of numerous diverse types of marble (this is the origin of the wide range of colours, which characterizes the production of terrazzo tiles). It is difficult to establish the place of birth, but it is possible that the first tiles to have been produced were by a community of monks living in San Severino Marche, which is the small town that then became the most important Italian production centre.

Terrazzo started to achieve success in the last decade, finding refined usage in quality restoration of public buildings, churches, historic buildings; a market that becomes more important every year. The more widespread use of it in quality restoration has contributed to the relaunch of terrazzo in the "new" construction industry, where the demand is increasing. The revival and success of terrazzo is certainly due to the improvement of new techniques, which remove the weak points of the previous production:

- treatment with efficient anti-absorbent products protects the terrazzo from spots
- the possibility of offering a finishing of polished surface permits exclusion of polishing after installation
- availability of the product on the market

Formats

La Terrazzo tiles are formed of a natural mixture of marble aggregates, mineral powder, cement, water and natural colorants.

The tiles can be supplied in different finishes including honed, polished, brushed and sandblasted (also can be left raw if client would like to polish on site).

The tiles are not pre-treated, they need to be sealed after laying.

SIZES, WEIGHTS AND THICKNESSES

300 x 300 x 20mm – Kg/sqm 48	400 x 400 x 20mm – Kg/sqm 48
297 x 600 x 30mm – Kg/sqm 72	400 x 800 x 30mm – Kg/sqm 72
600 x 600 x 30mm – Kg/sqm 72	1000 x 500 x 30mm – Kg/sqm 72
	Special formats

Note: Terrazzo tiles have a tolerance of +/- 2mm, variations in stated sizes are normal.

Suitability

La Terrazzo is suitable for floor and wall, for internal and external applications.

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HONED, POLISHED, BRUSHED, SANDBLASTED

Slip rating: R9 - R10 (Polished & Honed)

Rough texture finishes can be applied for high slip rating (R11); this significantly alters the surface appearance.

SUBSTRATE

The substrate must be compact, free from oils, grease, encrustations and powder. If there are cracks in the screed, then it is recommended to close them with suitable materials. Give the screed the right time of maturation.

LAYING

Perform the installation with flexible high-performance adhesives, following the instructions on the packaging. Any glue residue on the surface of the tile, or on the gap between tiles, must be removed. Ensure that there is minimal movement in the subfloor, just like when laying marble tiles.

JOINTS

Carry out grouting only after the prescribed time, leaving 2 mm of space between the tiles.

In case of contrast between the colour of the tile and the grout (for example black grout on a black/white floor) the floor should be treated with a suitable protective pre-grouting sealant. It is possible to carry out the grouting with coloured resin grout too.

CLEANING

This material is sensitive to acid wash and even diluted acids will attack it. Therefore, do not use acids for the initial cleaning after installation and thereafter. Do not use even wax removers or alkali products, which can ruin the polish.

For cleaning and maintenance, it is strongly recommended to use a neutral cleaner diluted with water, which should be rinsed/wiped off well to prevent stains – regular cleaning is recommended.

Cleaning with abrasive equipment must be avoided at all cost as abrasive equipment will damage the surface of the tiles.

STORAGE

Avoid storing the material outside, since the presence of rainwater may penetrate into the packaging and it can damage the material. Perform the laying of materials in a short time to prevent the surface of the tiles forming efflorescence and/or colour tone.

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SUBSTRATE - Other

La Terrazzo tiles which have a thickness of 30mm (+) are suitable for laying on sand and cement substrate. The substrate must be firm, and as level as possible with minimal movement.

When building a patio or path close to a house it is important that the finished paving level is at least two brick courses below the damp course. Always provide a 'fall' to drain water away from buildings (check gradient with builder).

Always use paver sand to finish off the job. The sand is spread over the surface and then brushed into the joints. Surplus sand is then removed.

Note: La Terrazzo recommend that installation work is undertaken by an experienced professional who will be able to provide advice based on specific site conditions. A structural engineer may also need to be consulted depending on site conditions.

Additional information

La Terrazzo is subject to variances in texture, shade and structure. Refer to samples only as an indication of the La Terrazzo appearance

- Samples and colours in our display stands should be considered as only indicative, as the variable nature of the raw materials that make up terrazzo tiles may give rise to different hues
- The colour of complementary pieces, skirting boards, decorations and plain colours may change in different tones between them.
- The continuous variability of the raw materials and the craftsmanship of the manufacture give rise to colour differences even in the same batch.
- For this fundamental and insurmountable limit of production, the seller can never guarantee homogeneity of colour of its floors. Complementary pieces (steps, doorsteps, countertops, etc.) are made of different grain sizes compared to those of terrazzo tiles.
- There may be even more substantial diversity of colour shades between different batches: for this reason, we recommend you order all the material you need in a single order.
- Differences of tone are inevitable also between a sample and its batch, always because of the variability of raw materials that make up the item.

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Tones

Terrazzo tiles (made of different sized aggregate) are concrete structures made with a vibrating press and composed of natural components, powders and marble pieces. In some cases, in the mixture we add natural oxides: they have the purpose of colouring the entire mass. The final product is obtained from a set of mixtures made from components that are variable in nature. Unlike other types of flooring, the colour is not due to an enamel or paint surface; for this reason, it is impossible to guarantee the absolute uniformity of tone, also in the same batch. It should also be said that the surfaces of these floors, in contact with the air, undergo what is commonly referred to as “natural oxidation”: this phenomenon tends to slowly even out the tone.

The surface of terrazzo tiles has a natural porosity.

- The perimeter of a terrazzo tile, especially if opaque, can never be perfect: grouting and polishing will remedy this temporary defect called “chipping”.
- The polished finish needs to be accompanied by chamfering. Otherwise, there would be substantial difficulties of laying, beyond what is described in the previous paragraph.
- The intensity of the colour is greatly modified (temporarily) by the moisture contained in the terrazzo tile

The terrazzo tiles are packed in our factory with some residue of moisture.

In order to verify the correspondence of the product, let the terrazzo tile dry near a heat source. The speed of drying in the perimeter compared to that one in the centre can cause marks on the perimeter. They naturally disappear a few days after laying, especially if area is well ventilated.