

TERRAZZO and GRANITO

Terrazzo and Granito tiles installation

- **Tones/finishes:** Terrazzo and Granito tiles are manufactured using coloured cement and marble or glass aggregates. The tiles (cement base and marble aggregates) vary in tone and texture, even within a batch, each tile is unique. Colours with a high concentration of pigments and plain tiles typically show more variations from tile to tile. It is recommended to open several boxes to mix tones and textures for a nice organic finish.
- **Floor installation:** Place the tiles with minimal grout space on a stable and well-levelled concrete slab with cement adhesive using the double-bonding method (adhesive on back of tile and on surface) to properly set the tiles
- **Wall installation:** Terrazzo and Granito tiles are thicker and heavier than most wall tiles. For this reason, you should take the following points into account:
 - The wall should be solid and rigid.
 - Install the tiles row by row, ensuring the perfect adhesion of the bottom tiles before placing another row of tiles above (the first row will act as a support for the weight of the following levels).
 - Silicone or polyurethane based adhesives enable a faster and stronger adherence.
 - Lay the tiles edge to edge, ensuring they are perfectly levelled. Uneven surfaces may be corrected by polishing; however, polishing walls can prove challenging.

The grout between tiles

- For aesthetic reasons, Terrazzo and Granito tiles are usually placed “edge to edge”, leaving a narrow grout space of 1 to 2 mm. A wider gap should be left with underfloor heating or outdoor installations.
- After humidifying the tiles, the grout space should be filled with NON-PIGMENTED cement grout using a filing knife. Excess grout should be removed immediately with a damp sponge. Avoid spreading the grout on the whole tile surface.

Surface finish and abrasive polishing

- MOSAIC Terrazzo and Granito tiles leave the factory polished with fine abrasives that gives them a semi-shiny finish.
- As with natural stone and marble floors, it is possible and recommended to polish Terrazzo / Granito tiled floors again after the installation is completed. This process will clean and improve the overall finish.
- Abrasive polishing will help:
 - Perfectly level the surface and adjust an uneven installation
 - Repair a floor that has suffered mechanical or chemical damage
- For an enhanced shiny finish, buff the floor with colourless wax for marble and a soft fibre disc.

Treatment and protection - Sealing is necessary

- MOSAIC SEALER is a resin and solvent-based product that impregnates the fine pores in the surface of the tiles and limits the absorption of liquids and grease. It helps protect the surface from stains.
- The sealer is applied only once after the installation, grouting and re-polishing are completed. Apply on a clean and dry surface with a brush or wool roller until the floor is saturated.
- Excess of sealer: should sealer stagnate on the surface more than 1 or 2 minutes, remove/even out with a cloth. Should excess sealer be left to dry on the surface, shiny/yellow residues may appear which can only be removed through mechanical abrasion.

Cleaning and daily maintenance

- Mop with water and PH neutral soap. Natural PH neutral soap cleans and nourishes Terrazzo and Granito tiles while protecting them. Avoid harsh cleaners, acidic and alkaline products that attack limestone based floors.
- Colourless wax for marble can be used as part of maintenance from time to time. It will help enhance colours, create a patina and protect the floor.
- MOSAIC SOAP and MOSAIC WAX can be found at our showroom and online www.mosaicfactory.com

Cleaning with a buffing machine and fibre disc

- For cleaning and stripping a very dirty floor, use a large diameter floor polisher with a hard fibre disc (black or brown), water and PH neutral soap or mild non-acidic cleaners.
- Rinse thoroughly to remove the sludge generated by abrasion.
- Mosaic can provide a soft cleaning product for domestic use or a stronger cleaner that will help remove residues left after installation. Information on www.mosaicfactory.com
- Buffing machines can be hired from local DIY retailers.

Heavy traffic floors: Crystallise and strengthen Terrazzo / Granito

- Crystallisation is a mechanical/chemical process that hardens and waterproofs surfaces.
- A professional natural stone and marble care expert should carry out the crystallisation using a single disc machine, a stainless steel or bronze wool disc and fluorosilicate based products.
- For domestic use, MOSAIC offers a mild crystallising product that is easier to apply. It can also be used with a buffing machine and hard fibre discs. Ask our customer service department for further information.