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## WHAT IS TERRAZZO®?

Terrazzo® is a versatile composite material that can either be poured on-site or prefabricated into precast forms. It is made by combining marble, granite, pebbles, shells, or glass with a cement or epoxy binder.

The origins of Terrazzo® trace back to Venice, Italy, in the mid-16th century. The term “Terrazzo,” meaning “terrace,” reflects its initial use, where marble fragments were pressed into a clay surface and sealed with goat milk to create an affordable, mosaic-like flooring. In modern applications, Terrazzo® is poured directly by installers, allowed to cure, and then ground down to achieve a smooth, polished finish.

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## TERRAZZO® SYSTEMS

Terrazzo® can be created using two types of matrices: cement and epoxy. The matrix serves as the binding material covering the underlying structure. Cement Terrazzo® utilizes a cement-based matrix and includes various systems like sand cushion, bonded, rustic, monolithic, and polyacrylate. Meanwhile, epoxy Terrazzo® employs a two-component resin system developed from epoxy resins, resulting in a more durable, versatile, and cost-effective product.

### Cement Terrazzo® Systems

- **Sand Cushion Terrazzo®:** This premium system includes a cement matrix, wire reinforcement, an isolation sheet, and a sand layer, ideal for interior flooring.
- **Bonded Terrazzo®:** Suitable for both interior and exterior applications, this system adheres directly to the concrete substrate.
- **Monolithic Terrazzo®:** Known for rapid installation, this system applies a thin cement matrix directly to a concrete slab.

### Resinous Terrazzo® Systems

- **Epoxy Terrazzo®:** The most widely used Terrazzo® system today, it offers numerous color options and excels in strength, resiliency, and flexibility, making it ideal for high-traffic areas. Epoxy Terrazzo® also supports the incorporation of various materials, including glass, shells, metal chips, and more, and can be customized with intricate patterns and logos.

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## MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

Epoxy Terrazzo® is designed to enhance building performance, lower operational costs, and improve visual appeal. It's known for its durability, low maintenance, design flexibility, and eco-friendly properties.

Key benefits include:

- **Stain and chemical resistance**
  - **Bacterial and fungal protection**
  - **Slip-resistant surface**
  - **Resistance to thermal shock and abrasion**
  - **Excellent fire and water resistance**
  - **Zero volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**
  - **Longevity** – With proper care, Terrazzo® can last over 100 years.
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## APPLICATIONS

Terrazzo® is commonly used in high-traffic areas of commercial and institutional buildings, making it a preferred flooring option for:

- Airports
  - Hospitals
  - Hotels
  - Office buildings
  - Municipal facilities
  - Schools
  - Restaurants
  - Recreation centers
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## INSTALLATION

For optimal results, it's advisable to engage a professional Terrazzo® contractor. The installation process includes:

1. **Moisture Testing:** Ensuring moisture levels are within acceptable ranges.
  2. **Surface Preparation:** Including shot blasting and crack repair.
  3. **Flexible Membranes:** Applied to address substrate cracks.
  4. **Design Layout:** Positioning divider strips and templates for patterns and logos.
  5. **Troweling and Curing:** The mixed Terrazzo® is poured and troweled to a specified thickness, followed by curing.
  6. **Grinding and Polishing:** The surface is ground down and polished for a sleek finish.
  7. **Sealing:** Multiple coats of sealant are applied to protect the floor.
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## DESIGN IDEAS

The design potential of epoxy Terrazzo® is limitless. It offers:

- **Endless color possibilities**
  - **Wide variety of aggregates:** Marble, glass, metal, and more
  - **Micro to Venetian styles**  
Epoxy Terrazzo® provides flexibility for creating intricate designs, logos, and patterns. It also integrates seamlessly into architectural features like countertops, stair treads, and walls.
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## PRICING & COST FACTORS

Epoxy Terrazzo® offers exceptional lifetime value, with low maintenance costs and unparalleled durability. While initial installation costs can range from \$14 to \$90 per

square foot, most projects fall between \$20 and \$40 per square foot, depending on factors such as project size, design complexity, and material choices.

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## **CONCLUSION**

Choosing Terrazzo® for your flooring provides superior performance, stunning aesthetics, and eco-friendly benefits. Its low lifecycle costs and enduring appeal make it an excellent investment for any commercial or institutional project. Epoxy Terrazzo® delivers a floor built to last, withstanding high traffic while maintaining its beauty for decades.