

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

LA TERRAZZA



Authentic Italian Terrazzo.
Designed in California. Made in Italy.

APPLICATIONS

- Residential/Commercial walls and floors*
- Fireplace surrounds and cooktop areas
- Countertops
- Showers (including steam)
- Exteriors (no freeze/thaw areas)

* Please refer to our DCOF (Dynamic Coefficient of Friction) statement at <https://sonomatilemakers.com/resources/#dcof>

DCOF is a measure that can help determine if a tile is suitable for flooring, however it should not be the only consideration.

PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

La Terrazza is made with a mixture of recycled marble chips, marble powder, natural pigments and cement. Variation in background color, chip size and color should be expected. Minor chips on the edges of La Terrazza are an inherent part of the product and should be expected. Most chips are very small, and will be filled during the grouting process, making them unnoticeable. Alternatively, pieces with chips can be used as cuts in the installation.

BEFORE INSTALLATION : IMPORTANT

UPON ARRIVAL: LA TERRAZZA IS A CEMENT BODY PRODUCT MADE USING A WET PROCESS AND TILES MAY STILL BE DAMP UPON ARRIVAL. TILE MUST BE PROTECTED FROM THE ELEMENTS. STORE INDOORS TO PROTECT FROM MOISTURE, DEBRIS AND EXTREME TEMPERATURES. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY DAMAGE TILE.

WHEN READY TO INSTALL: PRIOR TO STARTING INSTALLATION, OPEN UP ALL BOXES AND LAY PIECES OUT TO ALLOW THEM TO DRY. PIECES MUST BE KEPT INDOORS WHILE DRYING.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION:

You are responsible for determining the acceptability of the product prior to installation. **DO NOT INSTALL UNLESS YOU HAVE INSPECTED ALL PIECES IN ALL BOXES.** Double check that you have enough tile to complete the project with some leftover pieces. Take into account grout spacing and cuts. If you need additional pieces, do not start the installation until you have them. Sonoma Tilemakers is in no way responsible for the installation of our tiles or thereafter. The responsibility for correct installation rests with the end user and their selected installation personnel. Select installers for our products with great consideration and care as proper installation is critical. Installation constitutes acceptance.

SUBSTRATES:

We recommend installing La Terrazza over a clean, sound, flat and thoroughly cured concrete or mortar bed with a fine broom finish. The surface should be free of curing agents, waxes, grease, oils, dirt and paint or other contaminants/conditions that could compromise material bonding. When La Terrazza is installed on a concrete slab at ground level, it is the responsibility of the buyer and installer to ensure a proper moisture/crack isolation barrier is in place prior to installation.

ADHESIVES:

Many acceptable adhesives can be used for bonding, such as thin-sets, epoxies and urethanes. With such a wide variety of products available it is up to the end user, installer or industry professional to select the proper adhesives and grouts for the job at hand. As a standard rule we recommend not mixing manufacturer's products.

MEMBRANES/HEAT MATS:

When installing La Terrazza over membranes and heat mats, we recommend following the membrane/heat mat manufacturer's adhesive recommendations typically using rapid, fast set thin-set or epoxy adhesives. Make sure to allow sufficient dry time after installation and before grouting. A minimum of 24-48 hours is suggested and 72 hours or longer for membrane/heat mat installations.

TROWEL SIZE:

For trowel size and technique we recommend referring to the National Tile Contractors Association's Trowel and Error Video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roVqR--taAM>). Additionally, we recommend no less than 95% adhesive coverage between the substrate and tile for all applications (with all corners and edges completely supported by adhesive). Typical notch trowel sizes are 3/8"x3/8" & 1/2"x1/2". A relatively flat substrate (1/8" variation in 10 feet) can usually utilize a 3/8"x3/8" trowel, however, sometimes a 1/2"x1/2" trowel will be needed. Occasionally, check for proper coverage by lifting a freshly set tile to confirm coverage.

INSTALLATION

Install La Terrazza per industry standards and always refer to the most current Tile Council of North America (TCNA) "Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation"

1. Due to natural variation in background color, chip size and chip color, **MAKE SURE TO BLEND TILES FROM ALL BOXES.**
2. Mix all adhesives according to manufacturer's instructions taking care not to over hydrate adhesives mixed with water.
3. For dry concrete and mortar bed thin-set applications, broom or vacuum the surface then lightly dampen prior to thin-set application.
4. For membrane and epoxy applications, lightly broom or vacuum substrates prior to applying adhesives.

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5. Apply an initial coat of adhesive using the flat side of a trowel and sufficient pressure to embed a thin layer of adhesive to the substrate. Follow immediately by adding more adhesive and notching it, in a horizontal and/or perpendicular pattern of straight full notches. Do this on both the substrate and the tile.
6. Place the tile into the notched substrate and press into the adhesive running in the same direction. Push back and forth to achieve full coverage and a uniform finish with surrounding tiles.
7. Clean adhesive off the tiles face as you go.
8. Tile and setting materials must be completely dry before grouting. Total drying time will depend on environmental conditions. In some climates drying time may take 3-4 weeks **or more**. See “drying time” section for more detail.
9. Grout joints should be packed full and free of all voids using a minimum 1/16” joint. Excess grout should be cleaned from the tile surface as the work progresses, before the grout hardens. Cure grout per grout manufacturer’s instructions. Do not use acids to clean off excess grout. **Contrasting grouts may stain tiles. Test prior to installation.**
10. Clean off any efflorescence if present using a fine steel wool pad or soft bristle brush.
11. We recommend only sealing tiles after setting materials, grout and tile are completely dry. **Total drying time will depend on environmental conditions. In some climates drying time may take 3-4 weeks or more. Applying sealer before the tiles have dried completely will severely hinder the drying process and may lead to permanent humidity marks. See “drying time” section below for more detail.**

MOVEMENT JOINTS

Movement joints are essential for the success of tile installations. Follow recommendations on movement joints EJ 171 in the current year “TCNA Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation”. Movement joint requirements will vary depending on substrate, climate and size of installation. An architect or design professional should be consulted when specifying the exact number, location and size of each movement joint.

DRYING TIME

It’s important to make sure La Terrazza is completely dry before sealing/grouting. Some of the darker colors, even after dried, may still show a slight “TV Frame effect”, humidity spots, or even some sodium carbonate efflorescence. In such cases it’s recommended that you gently clean the efflorescence with a fine steel wool pad, soft scrub brush, soft scotch brite pad or redo the honing on site for persistent humidity spots.

SEALING

We recommend only sealing tiles after they are completely dry using a sealer such as Aquamix Sealer’s Choice Gold or similar. Applying sealer before the tiles have dried completely will severely hinder the drying process and may lead to humidity marks appearing that will take longer to fade. Sealing is an essential step in protecting the beauty and ensuring the longevity of any La Terrazza tile. It is further recommended that it be resealed annually or as part of normal maintenance.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

- For everyday cleaning use a ph neutral cleaner, stone soap or a mild liquid dishwashing detergent mixed with clean warm water followed by a clean, warm water rinse
- Avoid stone care sprays that contain phosphoric and glycolic acids, as they can etch some stone surfaces.
- Care should be taken to protect La Terrazza from harsh abrasive cleaners and abrasive cleaning tools
- For any cleaning products, always test a small inconspicuous area first to make sure it doesn’t affect the tile’s surface
- Clean up any spills or stains immediately not allowing them to dry
- Grout lines can be cleaned with warm water and soft bristle cleaning brush
- Vacuum floor tiles regularly to remove dirt and other gritty particles
- Periodic resealing annually based on usage and application is highly recommended

IMPORTANT!

We recommend using a wet cutting tile saw, equipped with a diamond blade made specifically for cutting natural stones, to cut La Terrazza. Do not use dry cutting power tools, as dry stone fabrication techniques could expose people to a harmful environment.