Every question, answered

The full index of the answer library, with the answer stated so you can read it without the site. terrazzo.com.cn

FIGURES ARE PUBLISHED RANGES. FIGURES WE HAVE MEASURED ARE MARKED "OURS". FIGURES WE HAVE NOT MEASURED ARE MARKED "NOT TESTED". NOTHING ON THIS SHEET HAS BEEN INVENTED.

What this index is

Each entry below is a page on terrazzo.com.cn. The sentence under each question is the direct answer as it appears on that page, so this sheet is useful on its own and the site is where the drawings and the tables are. Every figure on the site says whether it is a published range or one we measured.

The material itself

What are the six types of terrazzo?
Terrazzo is a method, not a stone. Six processes share the name: precast panels pressed and cured, epoxy floors laid thin, cement-bound floors laid on site, poured terrazzo ground back to the slab, liquid terrazzo trowelled as a coating, and porcelain with a printed surface. Only the first five are terrazzo in the material sense: porcelain prints the look without being it.
terrazzo.com.cn/answers/terrazzo-types/

What is precast terrazzo?
Precast terrazzo is a panel made in a factory: aggregate and cement are mixed, pressed, cured under pressure, then ground and polished. It arrives as a finished panel of consistent thickness, which is why it is specified for large floors and for anything that has to pass a fire rating.
terrazzo.com.cn/answers/single-precast/

What is epoxy terrazzo?
Epoxy terrazzo is aggregate in resin, laid in a thin layer — usually between 3 and 6 mm — either on site or as a factory panel. It is among the thinnest and the most chemical-resistant, and it is the one that cannot be repaired the way a cement floor can.
terrazzo.com.cn/answers/single-epoxy/

Is porcelain terrazzo real terrazzo?
No. Porcelain terrazzo is a fired clay tile with a printed surface. The aggregate you can see is in the glaze, at a fixed depth, and there is none beneath it. It costs a fraction of cement terrazzo and it behaves differently, which is fine — as long as a specification does not call it terrazzo.
terrazzo.com.cn/answers/single-porcelain/

Numbers

How thick is terrazzo flooring?
There is no single answer, because terrazzo covers a 2 mm coating and a 30 mm pressed panel. Cement-bound and poured floors are usually 10-15 mm, precast panels 20-30 mm, epoxy 3-6 mm and liquid terrazzo under 3 mm. Which one you need is decided by the span and the substrate, not by preference.
terrazzo.com.cn/answers/terrazzo-thickness/

Is terrazzo slippery when wet?
A polished terrazzo floor is slippery when wet, and that is a property of the polish rather than of the stone. A honed or matt cement-bound floor is not, which is why wet areas are specified matte. The figure that matters is the wet rating, and it has to be quoted for the finish being supplied rather than for terrazzo in general.
terrazzo.com.cn/answers/terrazzo-slip-resistance/

What is the water absorption of terrazzo?
For cement-bound terrazzo it is commonly between 0.3% and 0.6%. For resin-bound terrazzo it is effectively nil, because the binder is the resin rather than a cement matrix. That difference decides whether a material can go in a wet room, which is why the binder is named in every figure this site publishes.
terrazzo.com.cn/answers/terrazzo-water-absorption/

Methods

How do you install terrazzo flooring?

It depends entirely on the process, and this is where the five types separate most sharply. Precast is dry-laid and jointed. Cement-bound is laid wet over the substrate and ground back to it. Epoxy is a coating. Poured terrazzo is placed in layers over a divider grid and ground twice. Porcelain is a tile and follows tile rules.

terrazzo.com.cn/answers/how-to-install-terrazzo/

How do you clean terrazzo?

Neutral pH detergent and water, nothing acid. Terrazzo is cement or resin, and an acidic cleaner attacks a cement matrix and dulls a resin one. On a sealed floor this is the whole routine. On an unsealed poured floor, sealing is what makes cleaning possible at all.

terrazzo.com.cn/answers/how-to-clean-terrazzo/

Decisions

How much does terrazzo cost per square foot?

The spread is enormous — roughly a five-times difference between porcelain printed terrazzo and a poured cement floor — so an average is not a useful number. What moves the price is the process, the aggregate, the finish and the size of the job. Ask for a figure per process, not for terrazzo.

terrazzo.com.cn/answers/terrazzo-cost/

Is terrazzo better than marble?

Terrazzo is harder and will not etch; marble is softer, looks better close up, and etches on contact with anything acidic. Terrazzo is more uniform because it is engineered; marble varies slab to slab, which is either its appeal or its problem. Neither is better — they answer different requirements.

terrazzo.com.cn/answers/terrazzo-vs-marble/