

INSTALLATION, PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

M I P A Terrazzo Tiles **Finish Mat**

Substrates	The substrate must be properly prepared. It must be flat, smooth, clean (free from loose material, dust, greases, oils, waxes, paints, detaching agents and any other items which may reduce adhesion), free from cracks, compact, dry, mechanically strong (the mechanical strength and thickness required depend on the intended use), cured and with dimensional stability . The curing time is one of the most important factors for a concrete screed. Ceramic tiles and stone slabs must be laid on cured screeds which have already completed most of their shrinkage due to water loss, <u>ensuring that there will be no cracking after the floor covering has been installed, with the consequent risk of broken or loose tiles</u> . The curing time for a conventional sand and cement screed is about 7-10 days for every centimetre of its thickness in optimal ambient conditions. This long waiting time can be reduced by using special binders or quick-setting, quick-setting, quick-drying premixed cements.(Text taken from the Mapei Technical Guide to Screed Laying).
Installation	Should you use a cement adhesive, it must be elastic, high-performance and suitable for stone slabs. It is essential to use the double-spread technique. It is recommended to refer to the information provided by the reference companies about the use of other adhesives. Any uneven points will require excessive grinding, which may spoil the whole floor.
Laying Joints	<u>Existing expansion joints and laying joints</u> must comply with the reference standards. Before grouting the joints, wait for the times specified in the technical information supplied with the adhesives used for installing the tiles. The laying joints (grouts) have to be clean, free from dust and have to be sufficiently large to let the grout penetrate deeply and last in time. Joints may be sealed with grouting cements or suitable fillers with colour as similar as possible to the colour of the terrazzo tile. The grout must be spread over the entire surface, following the producer's instructions. . It is essential to remove sealant residues from the tiles when still fresh.
Basic Cleaning	It is absolutely necessary to avoid products containing acid , even when diluted. We also advice strongly against the use of alkaline detergents, very strong solvents and paint strippers. Neutral detergents are therefore recommended. Remove dry dirt using a cloth. Wash with a neutral detergent diluted in water. Rinse with plenty of clean water without detergent and leave to dry.
Protection	It is absolutely necessary to apply a suitable water-proofing/stain-proofing agent, particularly for kitchens, offices, restaurants, ... (the protection has to be applied to a perfectly clean and dry surface).
Maintenance and cleaning	For everyday cleaning and maintenance, as well as washing with water and neutral detergent, the "washing-waxing method" (cleaning the floor with water to which a colourless liquid wax has been added) is recommended.
Storage	Never leave the material outdoors since damage to the packaging or acid rain may damage the material.