Maintenance and cleaning

Terrazzo

Best Bricks& Pavers

Terrazzo floors are practical, hard wearing and very easy to clean. To maintain their long lasting appearance the following simple steps may be followed:

Day to day care

- Remove stains as soon as possible before they dry out. Stubborn areas of dirt caused by sticky sweets or chewing gum should first be removed with a knife or similar utensil.

- Sweep all loose surface dirt and debris with a large, soft broom.

- Scrub the floor using clean water and neutral cleaning agent (ie. with a pH of less than 10.0) mixed strictly in accordance with the manufacturers instructions. If possible two buckets should be used – one for clean water and one for soiled water. If this is not possible, cleaning water should be changed regularly to ensure complete removal of dirt. Best results are obtained using automatic scrubbing pads, which must be cleaned and checked regularly to prevent damage to the surface floor.

- It is also a good idea to polish the floor to enhance the shine, using a high speed polishing machine.

NB: Terrazzo floors will outlast most other types of hard flooring providing the correct cleaning products are used. The use of incorrect cleaning products or lack of correct maintenance may damage the floor, causing pitting or damage to the cement grout in the joints. Acid or alkaline–based cleaning products may damage the floor surface or destroy the cement base.

Sealing

When dealing with terrazzo, the use of a pure surface coating, (sealing or waxing) is unnecessary and ordinarily not recommended. This is because the seal can wear differentially, particularly in areas of heavy foot traffic, causing an unsightly finish. Removal of these surface sealers can potentially damage the finish of the floor. Terrazzo doesn't need protection from wear, it needs protection to further minimize absorption. To achieve this, at time of installation a penetrating sealer is normally applied after polishing to seal off the pores and improve resistance to staining.

Refurbishment

Unlike other surfaces, after many years of use, Terrazzo's attractive appearance can be restored, if required, by re–grinding, re–grouting and re–polishing, returning it to pristine condition.