

Cement and Resin Terrazzo Counter Tops

This document contains information to ensure you understand the quirks of terrazzo before you decide to buy. Terrazzo is not a bomb-proof material. If you are looking for the best option for durability and a flawless surface, you may prefer a terrazzo lookalike range in engineered stone or granite. However, if you want to enjoy the many unique qualities of terrazzo, you must be aware of the following:

POTENTIAL ISSUES

Movement: Structural/carcass movement will cause the terrazzo joints to open, and sometime cracks will appear. For cement terrazzo the base must be able to bear 55kg per sqm. For resin terrazzo this is 50kg per sqm. Diespeker will not accept claims when the carcass is not adequately weight-bearing. Vulnerable hotspots for cracking include the back and front of sinks and hobs.

Pinholes: These are tiny pockets of air resulting from the manufacturing process. Generally, the large ones and most of the small ones are filled. Some may remain, although usually they are not very noticeable.

Cracks and Chips: Terrazzo is a strong material but it can be chipped, the main culprit being pots and pans. Pencil rounded or chamfered edges will mitigate risk but by no means eliminate it. As with many other materials the key is to always treat the surface with care, especially around appliances such as ovens and dishwashers.

Colour Variation: We take great care to ensure consistency of colour and chippings, but batch variations between and within slabs and the occasional impurity can occur. This is outside of our control and we do not take responsibility for such issues.

Scratches: Like most natural stone surfaces, terrazzo is susceptible to scratches. A scratched surface can potentially be rescued with a regrind and repolish.

Stains: The cement/resin element of terrazzo is more susceptible to stains than the marble element. It is important to be careful, especially with kitchen countertops used for food and drink preparation. Avoid Ketchup; brown sauce; chilli sauce; Coke; red wine; blood; rust; bleach; lemon. Many stains can be removed and we will provide you with advice. We strongly recommend the application of a stain-resistant coating. Although no product guarantees 100% resistance, our preferred product has shown impressive results.

CHECKS ON COMPLETION

You must check your finished countertop and alert us if you are unhappy with anything. We do not take responsibility for issues once a countertop is installed and in use. We will however endeavour to help although there may be costs involved for remedial work.

GUARANTEE

Diespeker guarantees that a cement terrazzo surface is fit for purpose for 10 years so long as it has been installed and maintained correctly. This does not cover accidental damage, cracks as a result of substrate movement or stains, although we will give advice on remedial actions.

NB once you have read this document we assume you understand the nature and potential flaws of the terrazzo. If you have any questions or concerns please discuss these with us before placing your order. We will be happy to advise.