READY TO INSPECT — STANDARD FIELD GUIDE

NTMA terrazzo standards

National Terrazzo & Mosaic Association

NTMA guidance covers how a terrazzo floor is built up from the slab. It addresses the substrate it bonds to, the crack-isolation or waterproof membrane beneath it, the divider strips that lay out the field, and the matrix and aggregate that become the finished surface. Most of what decides whether a floor telegraphs cracks or delaminates is buried under the terrazzo and inspectable only before the pour, which is why the walk lives at substrate and strip stage.

What it covers

- Substrate flatness, cleanliness and moisture readiness
- Crack-isolation and waterproofing membranes
- Divider, control and expansion strip layout and setting
- Matrix and aggregate proportioning and placement
- Grinding, grouting and polishing sequence
- Sealing and final surface protection

What a field inspection looks at

- Substrate photographed clean and profiled before membrane goes down, with any cracks shown as bridged or isolated.
- Divider strip layout photographed set to line and height before matrix is poured, since the strips are the only control joints the floor will ever have.
- Membrane coverage documented continuous at the perimeter and terminations before it disappears under topping.
- Ground and polished surface photographed under raking light for pinholes and pull-outs before grout fill.
- Sealer application recorded as placed and dated, not described after the fact.

Adoption varies by jurisdiction. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction enforces before you run a walk against it.