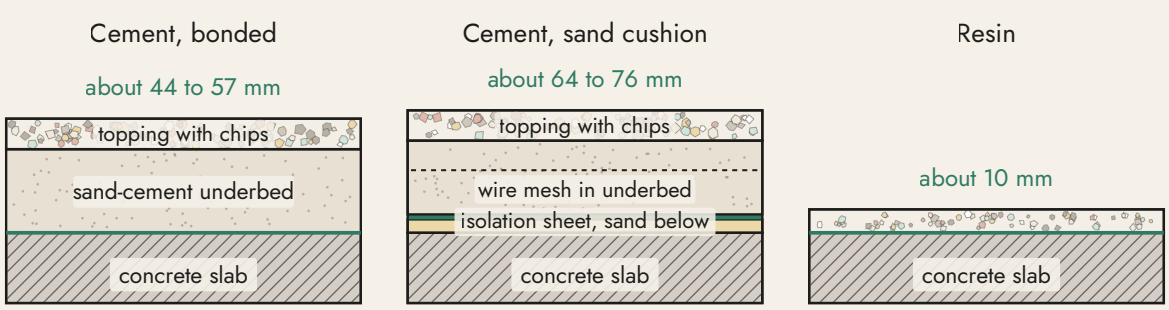
Terrazzo *specification*: cement or resin, tiles or in situ, strips and joints

Cement-bound tiles, in situ cementitious terrazzo (BS 8204-4) or resin, which neither standard covers. Figures here are a US trade body's, converted: the partner terrazzo supplier confirms UK ones.

AT A GLANCE

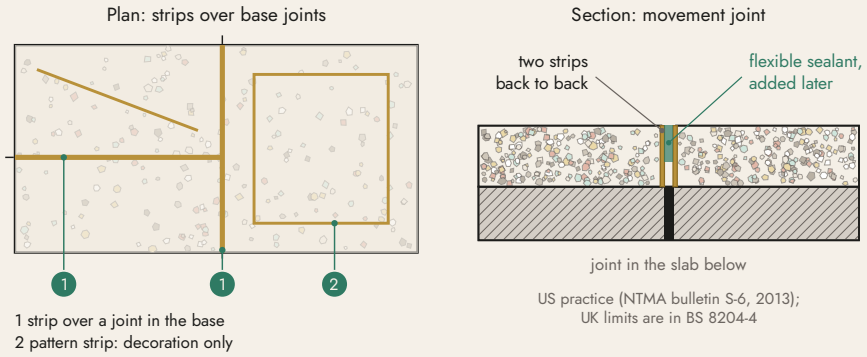
System	What it is	Thickness, mm	kg/m²	Standard to name
Sand cushion (cement)	Topping on underbed over sheet and sand	64 to 76	120 to 145	BS 8204-4
Bonded (cement)	Topping on underbed bonded to the slab	44 to 57	88 to 107	BS 8204-4
Monolithic (cement)	Topping bonded straight to the slab	13	24 to 34	BS 8204-4
Epoxy (resin)	Resin topping bonded to the slab	10	15 to 20	Resin maker's data
Tiles (cement-bound)	Factory-made, laid on a bed like stone	Ask maker	Ask maker	BS EN 13748-1, -2

Approximate. The US National Terrazzo & Mosaic Association's nominal thicknesses and weights (2023), converted; system names are theirs. Cement thicknesses include a 13 mm topping. Resin is outside BS 8204-4 and BS EN 13748. UK build-ups may differ: the partner terrazzo supplier confirms them. Terrazzo is heavy: have the structure checked.



Schematic, one scale. The chip layer is the topping.

Three build-ups at one scale. Thicknesses: a US trade body's, converted. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.



Left: strips over base joints, and a pattern strip. Right: a double-strip movement joint (US practice). Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

SYSTEM

Terrazzo flooring: [cementitious in situ, bonded / cementitious in situ, sand cushion / resin in situ / cement-bound tiles to BS EN 13748-1:2004+A1:2005]. In situ cementitious work to BS 8204-4:2004+A1:2011 [confirm current edition] on [concrete base / screed to BS 8204-1], accepted in writing by the terrazzo contractor. Total thickness [ ] mm including [ ] mm topping, confirmed by the contractor for the base and use. Resin systems: the resin maker's system data, with base moisture and flatness requirements in writing.

MATRIX, AGGREGATE AND SAMPLE

Matrix [cement and pigment / resin], colour [ref]. Aggregate [marble / granite / glass], colour [ref], chip range [ ] to [ ] mm. Approved sample panel [ref], [ ] x [ ] mm, ground and sealed as the works, signed, dated and kept on site as the reference. Trial area [ ] before the main floor.

DIVIDER STRIPS AND JOINTS

Divider strips [brass / zinc / aluminium / plastic], [ ] mm thick and [ ] mm deep, in the layout on drawing [ref], with a strip over every joint in the base in the same position. Movement joints [two strips back to back with flexible sealant] at [ ] and at all perimeters and columns. Strips are not levelling devices and do not replace base joints.

FINISH, SLIP AND CARE

Ground to [honed / polished] finish in [ ] stages. Sealer [penetrating, as the contractor recommends]. Wet pendulum test value not less than [36] on the finished floor, [Slider 96], reported before handover. Slurry and dust controlled; method statement before work starts. Cleaner [neutral-pH]; care instructions at handover.

TERMS USED

Terrazzo

A composite of marble or other chips set in a cement or resin matrix, ground and polished, available as poured in-situ floors or as precast tiles and slabs.

Divider strip

A thin metal strip (often brass) set into terrazzo or stone floors to divide panels, mark pattern lines and sit over movement joints; US guidance says it is not a levelling device.

Movement joint

A deliberate break or flexible joint in a floor finish that allows thermal or moisture movement without cracking or lifting.

Sand cushion

A cement terrazzo system laid on a reinforced underbed over an isolation sheet and a layer of sand, so the floor is independent of the slab. The term is the US trade body's.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- BS 8204-4:2004+A1:2011 and BS 8204-1:2003+A1:2009: in situ cementitious terrazzo; concrete bases and screeds. Listings read 5 Nov 2026; texts not read.
- BS EN 13748-1:2004+A1:2005 and BS EN 13748-2: cement-bound terrazzo tiles. Part 1 listing read; texts not read.
- BS 5385-3:2024: floor tiling code, lists terrazzo tile. Listing read; text not read.
- US National Terrazzo & Mosaic Association: Terrazzo Systems Reference Guide (2023); bulletins S-6 and S-8 (8/13): read in full; imperial figures converted.
- Our terrazzo page: the live description, which this sheet follows.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/terrazzo-specification. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.