Terrazzo Tiles
Installation, Cleaning & Maintenance Guidelines

Premium cement-based terrazzo manufactured using vibro-compression under-vacuum technology.

1. Introduction

Agglobaghin terrazzo tiles are manufactured using an advanced high-pressure vacuum vibro-compression process.
This technology produces a dense, high-performance cement-based terrazzo with very low water absorption and excellent mechanical properties.
Unlike conventional terrazzo products manufactured by cutting slabs from larger blocks, Agglobaghin tiles are produced using a specialized manufacturing process designed to provide consistent quality, density and durability.
To ensure the best possible result and preserve the original appearance of the tiles, correct installation, careful handling and appropriate maintenance are essential.
These guidelines provide general recommendations for the installation, cleaning and maintenance of Agglobaghin terrazzo tiles.
All installation work should be carried out by qualified professionals experienced in the installation of terrazzo or natural stone materials.

Stone Chips Fragments

The colour and shade variations of stone chips depend on the extraction site. As natural stone is a natural material, variations in colour and the possible presence of impurities or differently coloured fragments are normal.
These characteristics do not represent product defects but are an inherent feature of natural stone and should be considered as such.

2. Product formats and look

Agglobaghin terrazzo tiles are available in the following formats:
- 400 × 400 mm, thickness 15 mm (upon request up to 3 cm)
- 400 × 400 mm, thickness 20 mm (upon request up to 3 cm)
- 600 × 600 mm, thickness 20 mm (upon request up to 3 cm)

The suitability of a particular format and thickness depends on the intended application, substrate, installation method and expected loads.
Please consult Agglobaghin before using the tiles in applications involving special loading conditions, exterior exposure or technically demanding environments.

3. Before installation

Before commencing installation, the installer should:

- Check the tiles for colour, appearance, dimensions and visible defects.
- Verify that the quantity supplied is sufficient for the project, including cutting and wastage.
- Ensure that the substrate is stable, flat, clean, dry and free from dust, grease, paint and other contaminants.
- Confirm that the substrate is suitable for the intended installation system.
- Ensure that the installation environment meets the requirements of the adhesive and grout manufacturers.

Tiles should be inspected before installation.
Do not install tiles that show visible damage or characteristics that may affect the finished appearance without first consulting the supplier.
As terrazzo is manufactured using natural aggregates and cement, minor variations in colour, texture and aggregate distribution are inherent characteristics of the material and should not automatically be considered defects.

4. Tile adhesive

Use a high-quality cement-based tile adhesive suitable for cement terrazzo and the intended installation conditions.
The adhesive must be compatible with:
- The terrazzo tile format and thickness.
- The substrate.
- The installation environment.
- Any underfloor heating system.
- The intended interior or exterior application.

White or grey adhesive

For light-coloured terrazzo, white adhesive is recommended to minimize the risk of unwanted colour influence.
Grey adhesive should only be used where its suitability has been confirmed for the particular terrazzo colour and installation conditions.
The adhesive manufacturer's instructions must always be followed.

Application

The substrate must be properly prepared before adhesive application.
Apply adhesive evenly and ensure adequate contact between the tile and substrate.
For floor installations, the installer should achieve as complete adhesive coverage as reasonably possible, avoiding voids beneath the tiles.
The double-bonding method, applying adhesive to both the substrate and the back of the tile, may be necessary depending on the tile format, substrate and installation conditions.
Follow the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations regarding application thickness, open time, curing and temperature.

5. Grouting

Use a grout suitable for cement-based terrazzo and the intended application.

Before grouting, ensure that the adhesive has cured sufficiently according to the manufacturer's instructions.
The grout colour should be selected carefully, particularly when installing light-coloured terrazzo.

Pay particular attention to coloured grouts and fillers, as their pigments may stain the tile surface, especially on light-coloured terrazzo. If necessary, protect the floor before grouting.

Always test the grout and cleaning procedure on a representative tile before proceeding with the complete installation.
Remove grout residues promptly using a method and cleaning product suitable for cement-based terrazzo.
Do not allow grout residues to dry on the terrazzo surface.
Avoid aggressive cleaning or excessive mechanical action during grout removal.

6. Silicone and movement joints

Movement joints, perimeter joints and connections should be installed in accordance with applicable standards and project requirements.
Where silicone is required, use a neutral-cure silicone specifically suitable for natural stone or cement-based terrazzo.
The silicone should be non-staining and compatible with the terrazzo surface, grout and any protective treatment.
Avoid using acidic or otherwise incompatible sealants.
Before applying silicone, ensure that the surfaces are clean and dry and that the product is suitable for the intended application.

7. Impregnation and surface protection

Agglobaghin terrazzo is manufactured using a high-pressure vacuum vibro-compression process that produces a dense material with very low water absorption.
Consequently, impregnation requirements may differ from those of conventional terrazzo manufactured from sawn blocks.
Impregnation should not automatically be considered mandatory for every installation.

All tiles are supplied with an initial water-based hydro-oleo-repellent protective treatment. This treatment helps protect the tiles during handling and installation activities on site. However, it does not guarantee complete protection against staining or other contaminants.

Where additional or final protection is required or considered appropriate, the final protective treatment should be applied **after installation, once the tiles are completely dry and clean**.

Use only a penetrating impregnator specifically suitable for cement-based terrazzo and approved for the relevant Agglobaghin product

The selected product should:
• Preserve the original appearance of the terrazzo.
• Avoid creating an unwanted surface film.
• Be compatible with the cement matrix and aggregates.
• Be suitable for the intended application and exposure.

Application timing

The timing of impregnation depends on the selected product and installation procedure.
Where impregnation is required, the surface must be clean and sufficiently dry.
Unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer, impregnation should generally be considered after installation and initial cleaning.
If pre-grouting protection is required, the installer must ensure that the selected product does not interfere with grout adhesion or curing.
Always follow the impregnator manufacturer's instructions and perform a test on a representative tile before treating the complete installation.
Excess impregnator must be removed as directed by the product manufacturer.
Do not apply additional protective treatments without first confirming their compatibility with Agglobaghin terrazzo.

8. Initial cleaning after installation

After installation and grouting, the surface must be cleaned carefully.
Use a neutral cleaning product specifically suitable for cement-based terrazzo.
The cleaning process should:
• Remove grout residues and installation contamination.
• Avoid damaging the cement matrix or aggregates.
• Prevent excessive moisture from remaining on the surface.
• Preserve the original finish and appearance.
Do not use acidic cement removers, vinegar, lemon-based products or aggressive chemical cleaners.
If stubborn installation residues remain, consult the supplier before using stronger cleaning products.
Allow the installation to dry adequately before applying any additional protective treatment.

9. Routine cleaning and maintenance

Agglobaghin terrazzo is designed for durable, long-term use.
Regular cleaning with suitable products will help preserve the appearance of the surface.

Recommended cleaning procedure

• Remove loose dust and dirt using a soft brush, vacuum cleaner or suitable dust-removal equipment.
• Clean the surface using clean water and a pH-neutral detergent suitable for cement-based terrazzo.
• Use a soft mop, cloth or non-abrasive cleaning equipment.
• Remove excess water and allow the surface to dry.
• Repeat as necessary, depending on the level of contamination.
For commercial applications, establish a regular maintenance schedule according to traffic intensity and the type of contamination.

Spillages

Remove spillages promptly.
Particular care should be taken with:
• Coffee and tea.
• Wine and other coloured beverages.
• Oil and grease.
• Acidic food products.
• Strongly coloured liquids.

Although Agglobaghin terrazzo has very low water absorption, it should not be considered completely stain-proof. Prompt cleaning helps reduce the risk of staining. **Exposure to acids may also damage or etch the surface.**

10. Cleaning products and materials to avoid

The following products and methods should generally be avoided unless specifically approved for Agglobaghin terrazzo:
• Acidic cleaning agents.
• Vinegar and lemon-based cleaners.
• Acidic cement and grout removers.
• Strong alkaline cleaning products.
• Abrasive powders and scouring pads.
• Aggressive mechanical cleaning methods.
• Unapproved solvents.
• Wax, polish or film-forming treatments that may alter the appearance.
• Unapproved sealing or impregnation products.
Never use a cleaning product without checking its compatibility with cement-based terrazzo.
When in doubt, test the product on an inconspicuous area or consult Agglobaghin.

11. Discoloration, moisture and yellowing

Cement-based terrazzo may occasionally show temporary or permanent colour changes under certain conditions.

Potential contributing factors include:

- Moisture trapped beneath the tiles.
- Uneven drying of the adhesive or substrate.
- Incompatible adhesive or installation materials.
- Incorrect or excessive application of protective treatments.
- Incompatible silicone or grout products.
- Exposure to unsuitable cleaning chemicals.
- Prolonged contact with staining substances.
- Uneven drying of exposed tile edges due to premature opening of crates or prolonged exposure to air before installation.

Preventive measures

To minimize the risk of discoloration:

- Never store the material outdoors. Exposure to rain, particularly acidic or limescale-rich rainwater, may damage the surface, reduce its shine and cause difficult-to-remove marks.
- Use compatible installation materials.
- Ensure that the substrate is properly prepared.
- Avoid excessive moisture during installation.
- Allow adequate curing and drying.
- Use approved cleaning and protective products.
- Protect the finished installation against contamination during construction.
- **Keep tiles inside their original sealed packaging until immediately before installation, especially for light-coloured products.**
- **Once the crate is opened, install the tiles as soon as possible. Do not leave unused tiles exposed to air or stacked outside the crate.**
- **If installation is interrupted, return unused tiles to the crate and reseal the packaging to limit uneven drying.**
- Temporary colour variations caused by moisture after installation may disappear as the installation dries completely. However, if tile edges dry unevenly before installation, this may cause persistent colour differences that remain visible after laying.
- **Do not install tiles showing visible halos, edge discoloration or uneven colour variations. Set them aside and contact Agglobaghin for technical assessment before installation.**
- If discoloration persists, do not attempt to remove it using aggressive chemical treatments. Contact Agglobaghin for technical assessment before taking further action.

12. Protection during construction

After installation, terrazzo flooring should be protected against damage and contamination from other construction activities.

Use a suitable breathable protective covering that does not trap moisture or react with the terrazzo surface.

Avoid:
• Direct contact with aggressive chemicals.
• Adhesive tapes applied directly to the terrazzo surface.
• Metal particles, rust-producing materials and construction debris.
• Excessive water or moisture beneath protective coverings.
• Heavy loads or traffic before the installation has cured sufficiently.
Ensure that the protective covering is compatible with the terrazzo and any applied treatment.

13. Underfloor heating

Agglobaghin terrazzo may be considered for use with underfloor heating where the complete installation system is suitable.
The installer must ensure that:
• The substrate and heating system are properly prepared.
• The adhesive and grout are suitable for underfloor heating.
• The installation is allowed to cure adequately.
• The heating system is commissioned gradually in accordance with the relevant installation instructions.
Rapid temperature changes should be avoided.
Consult the installer and adhesive manufacturer for the correct commissioning procedure.

14. Important considerations for wet areas and exterior applications

For bathrooms, showers, swimming pool surroundings and exterior installations, the suitability of the terrazzo must be assessed according to the intended application.
The following must be considered:
• Waterproofing requirements.
• Slip resistance.
• Exposure to water and chemicals.
• Freeze-thaw conditions.
• Drainage and water management.
• Adhesive and grout suitability.
• Applicable construction standards.
The terrazzo tile itself does not replace the waterproofing system.
Always consult Agglobaghin before specifying the product for exterior or particularly demanding applications.

15. General recommendation

Correct installation and maintenance are essential to achieving the best performance and appearance from Agglobaghin terrazzo.
The use of compatible adhesives, grout, silicone, cleaning products and protective treatments is strongly recommended.
Where specific installation conditions or unusual applications are involved, obtain technical advice from Agglobaghin before commencing work.

To carry out manual works, it is recommended to follow the current safety regulations. It is necessary for each operator to use the specific PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for the required work, according to the local safety regulations in force.
In this case, it is necessary that the equipment intended for cutting, drilling, etc., works by using water and that the supply of water is enough to avoid the formation of dust during processing.

Technical assistance

Agglobaghin S.r.l.
Website: www.agglobaghin.it
Email: info@agglobaghin.it

These guidelines provide general recommendations and should be read together with the applicable technical specifications and installation instructions. Installation materials and procedures must be selected according to the specific project conditions.
Agglobaghin should be consulted where clarification or approval is required.