
Suggestions When Terrazzo Flooring is Specified with SGFT

Suggestions When Terrazzo Flooring is Specified with SGFT Structural Glazed Facing Tile or SGFT is often selected as the base course for high traffic and high abuse applications, such as for use in schools, security facilities, public transit facilities, food processing plants, etc. Chemical and impact resistant SGFT is proven as an exceptional base course for areas where harsh chemical, power cleaners and buffers are regularly used. The ceramic glaze finish of SGFT insures imperviousness, colorfastness and durability for the life of the building. The following are some recommendations when installing Structural Glazed Facing Tile with terrazzo flooring.

THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF SGFT BASE USED:

Recessed Cove Base—This type of base is typically used in wet areas where there are sanitary requirements and ease of cleaning is desired. The recessed cove base is used with terrazzo or quarry tile flooring. It has a 1/2" lip at the bottom of each unit, which allows for the finished floor to be placed after the walls are installed. The flooring material then fills up the 1/2" lip area, leaving a smooth and sanitary transition between the flooring and the walls. Available in nominal face sizes of 5-1/3" x 12", 8" x 8" and 8" x 16", in thicknesses of 2" and 4".

Non-Recessed Cove Base—This type of base is often used in wet areas or areas where there are sanitary requirements. The non-recessed or feather-edged unit is used with a concrete slab and a thin type of finished flooring material, such as vinyl, painted surface, etc. Available in nominal face sizes of 5-1/3" x 12", 8" x 8" and 8" x 16", in thicknesses of 2" and 4".

Straight Base—This type of stretcher unit is typically used when cove base is not required. Available in nominal face sizes of 5-1/3" x 12", 8" x 16", in thicknesses of 2", 4", 6" and 8".

ALL OF ELGIN-BUTLER BRICK COMPANY'S BASE UNITS:

1. Meet **ASTM C-126**, Grade S, sized for 3/8" mortar joints (except for 6T Series sized for 5/16" mortar joints), and the ceramic glazed finish shall be from the manufacturer's standard color selection and shall meet ASTM C-126.
2. Must meet **UL requirements** for zero flame spread and zero smoke developed.
3. **Nominal Face Dimensions:** 6T (5-1/3" high x 12" long), 4W Series (8" high x 8" long), 8W Series (8" high x 16" long).
4. **Bed Depth:** Nominal thickness dimensions of cove base units are 2" and 4", as required. Walls requiring vertical reinforcing must use 2" veneer with CMU backup for reinforcing. The straight base units are available in 2" veneer, or 4", 6" and 8" vertical celled for vertical reinforcing or horizontal celled.
5. **Shapes:** Furnished as shown on the plans in accordance with current standard production of the manufacturer. All external corners shall be bullnosed unless otherwise noted.



PROTECTION OF WORK:

- *Protect the surfaces of the installed SGFT.* Cover freshly laid weather exposed masonry at the end of each day, or the start of each shut down period, with non-staining waterproof material in such a manner which will ensure that the covering will overhang the masonry not less than 2' on each side of the masonry. Anchor on each side of wall. Finished walls to be covered with 15# felt paper and erect wooden barriers to protect walls at areas that are subject to large amounts of construction traffic or material movement. Protect glazed face from exposure to welding burns, stains, etc.
- *Protect the SGFT base surfaces when installing terrazzo flooring.* All borders of the terrazzo flooring within 1-1/2" – 2" of the wall should be hand-ground. For the best wall protection, place a 1/4" – 3/8" expansion joint between the SGFT base and the terrazzo flooring. During the installation of the flooring, place a piece of cushioned board (such as asphaltic board, a temporary wood board with backer rod or perhaps a piece of sheet metal with a cushioning material like carpeting) between the metal and the wall surface to avoid damage. Place this protective barrier vertically into the empty joint channel and "shim" it into the joint to protect SGFT wall surface. Move this protective barrier as needed to protect the wall surface. Protect the wall surface from the pouring of the terrazzo by taping a protective sheet to the wall, such as visqueen or felt paper. After flooring is completed remove the barrier materials, clean out the joint areas, and then caulk the joint with permanent filler.

The joint is necessary for two reasons: (1) to help protect the wall during the grinding and finishing work of the terrazzo flooring and (2); the joint also acts as an expansion joint between the vertical wall surfaces and the horizontal flooring surface.