

# COVERINGS ETC

ECO-TERR®

Terrazzo Slab Installation

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# ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This Guide is intended to share with our customers our knowledge and experience associated with our products and the use of our products. It contains recommendations and technical information to help fabricate and install our slabs.

It is meant to supplement the skills or experience of a qualified stonemason. The processes and recommendations in this Guide should be considered as a guide only. Independent Stonecraft carries out the fabrication and installation process of our slabs.

Please remember that the exact procedures used will vary between Stonecraft, and the stonemason will make the best choice of fabrication and installation methods to suit the application for which these slabs will be used.

Fabrication and installation methods are to follow the latest relevant standards and best practice industry standards. Information provided in this document must be read and interpreted together with applicable industry codes and standards.

If there are conflicting recommendations in this Guide to that specified in a code or standard, don't hesitate to contact Coverings ETC for further clarification and support.

We cannot and do not dictate how a qualified Stonecraft can use our slabs, although following our recommendations will help to minimize problems before and after installation.

This Guide is not intended:

- To be used for any other purpose, nor is it legally binding in any way. It is not meant for dispute resolution between Coverings ETC, stonemason, or any other party.
- For use by unqualified or unskilled workers. It assumes that the reader is a suitably skilled professional, as this Guide does not cover the basic skills and knowledge that a stonemason should possess.

Always refer to the latest guide and contact us for support.

# ABOUT THE PRODUCT

## Slab Data

The usable slab surface is limited by the raw edge/unfinished perimeter. It is important to properly check the slabs before cutting as the condition of the slab perimeter varies on each slab.

When measuring/ordering, we recommend factoring 100mm less of the slab size to allow for variance in the slab size.

Should you need to use the maximum width and length of the slab, you must inspect the slab perimeter for color, polish, aggregate dispersion, transportation damage, or any other defect that may be visible, before cutting.

LENGTH/THICKNESS	120 inches
WIDTH	49 inches
WEIGHT	~300 kg

or

LENGTH/THICKNESS	110 inches
WIDTH	56 inches
WEIGHT	~300 kg

## Slab Composition and Appearance

Eco-Terr® Slabs are manufactured with cement stone chips and the variance in these raw materials is noticeable in the finished product which is a feature of the slab design. The texture of the honed finish is designed to endure wear and tear.

Each Eco-Terr® Slabs are unique and thus these are not identical.

# HANDLING, TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE

## Handling and Transportation of Slabs

It is crucial to exercise caution throughout all stages of handling, transportation, and storage. Slabs should be handled using a forklift, overhead crane, or any other appropriate lifting device, ensuring the slab is balanced at its center of gravity.

Confirm that all lifting equipment and tools are in optimal working condition and are suitable for the purpose and weight of the load. If multiple slabs are being lifted at once, they must be organized face-to-face or back-to-back without any gaps. During the unloading and transportation stages, strictly follow all relevant safety regulations concerning equipment and personnel.

Eco-Terr® slabs are bulky and heavy. They must be moved safely and correctly, securely fastened to a truck with a suitable frame for loading. A-Frames should be equipped with a continuous bottom plate and a backing board. For interstate or long-distance transportation, it's advisable to stack the slabs in bundles of a minimum of five slabs.

Before departure, the load must be fully supported and securely fastened to the vehicle. For safety reasons, Coverings ETC reserves the right to refuse loading a truck if we deem it to be overloaded or unsafe.

## Handling and Transportation of Slabs

Before proceeding with the cutting process, a visual inspection of the entire slab is crucial, encompassing both the front and back, as well as the periphery. The existence of impurities, pinholes, or pitting should be considered natural aspects of the stone/cement, and variations can occur, especially in aggregates known for their distinct textures and patterns.

Upon receiving your slabs, the following may occur:

Moisture from the production phase may still be present in the slab, which will evaporate during fabrication. However, as the slab dries, it may cause changes in surface tension, which could temporarily increase warping.

Cement residues might be visible on the surface, but these can be effortlessly removed using steel wool by hand or attached to a buffing machine.

Ensure the following visual inspection checks for imperfections are conducted:

Cracks or voids

Consistent color matching between slabs

Color uniformity within a single slab

Unusual spots

Consistent levels of glossiness

Thickness tolerance of  $\pm 2\text{mm}$

Ensure the slab inspection is carried out under suitable lighting, either natural or artificial. Evaluate the slab's surface from various perspectives to identify any issues that aren't noticeable when viewing from a top-down angle. Warping up to 5mm in length and 3mm in width when the slab is horizontally positioned and fully supported is acceptable. Check for length warping using a full-length straight edge with the slab in a horizontal position.

## Storing your slabs

- Position them face to face and store on an appropriate A-Frame or Slab Rack.
- Slabs should be kept in a dry, safe warehouse shielded from wet conditions or rain.
- Avoid direct sunlight or high-temperature storage.
- Protect the slabs from excessive dust.
- Stacking of slabs should be done face to face.

# FABRICATION

Eco-Terr Terrazzo Slabs are crafted and installed by autonomous stonemasons. It's important to note that specific techniques may differ among these professionals. The fabrication and installation approaches should always align with the pertinent standards or industry-recognized 'best practices'.

## Maintain a Dry Environment for Your Slabs

While slabs retain some moisture from their manufacturing, they are also permeable and can soak up moisture during cutting. Ensure the slabs and the cut sections are well-aired throughout the fabrication process. You should warm up the workspace in colder conditions with a gas flame heater.

However, exercise caution to avoid directly heating the slab, as it might lead to cracks. Always ensure the material is completely dry during fabrication, joining, laminating, transportation, and installation.

## Choosing the Right Fixatives

For successful fabrication and installation, it's crucial to opt for the appropriate materials. Ensure the use of trusted, brand-name materials and verify their compatibility based on the manufacturer's guidelines. Ultimately, the stonemason will make the final choice, based on their expertise and established supplier connections.

## Strategize Your Cutting Approach

While aiming for optimal cutting efficiency is vital, it shouldn't come at the cost of the project's overall quality.

If utilizing the slab's full dimensions, it's essential to thoroughly inspect it for color consistency, transportation-induced damage, or any other noticeable defects before cutting.

We advise initiating your cuts at least 50mm from the slab's edge for best results.

## Ensuring Color Consistency

Slabs are predominantly composed of around 75% natural stone and 25% cement, leading to potential subtle color discrepancies across production runs. Always conduct a pre-cut visual inspection to verify shade uniformity.

## Cutouts

When creating cutouts in countertops for accessories like sinks or cooktops, always follow the specific manufacturer's guidance and account for expansion. Ensure a minimum radius of 15 mm for every cutout corner – a bigger radius means a more robust corner. Avoid square or cross-cut corners entirely to prevent potential hairline cracks. Maintain a distance of at least 150mm between a cutout and an edge or joint.

If cutout designs result in front and back rails less than 150mm, consider crafting these rails from separate pieces to avoid cracking issues.

Remember, installation quality heavily depends on the structural integrity of the base. It's essential to converse with all parties involved if there are concerns about the structure's adequacy.

## Edges

Craft all exposed edges to mirror the countertop's finish. Round off or bevel both the top and bottom of edges, steering clear from square aris edges. Every edge should possess a minimum aris/bevel of 3mm to fortify resistance against chipping.

# INSTALLATION GUIDE

## Pre-Delivery Checks

Before finalizing the slabs, assess the site for proper access and ideal storage conditions. Acknowledge that fabricated slabs are delicate and demand exceptional caution during both handling and fitting.

## Assessing the Foundation

Install the slabs on a uniformly level substrate support tailored from a dependable material, tracing the slab's boundaries. Ensure the slab garners adequate support, especially around joints, cutouts, and where appliances or accessories might reside.

## Transportation Tips

Transporting slabs undamaged requires the right racking system—Sandwich the slabs between a backing board and a protective layer to combat scratches during transit or storage. Use vehicles equipped with specialized A-frame racks. Always stack cutout pieces amidst solid ones for added protection. Ensure each slab is upright and firmly secured to negate movement during transport.

## Installation

Before permanently placing the slabs, lay them atop the cabinets sans adhesive. Ensure their size, shape, and orientation correlate with the cabinets and surrounding architecture. Conclude with a thorough visual inspection.

## Wall Joints

Ensure a gap-free space between the slab and the wall.

## Overhangs

Avoid unsupported overhangs. If an overhang is desired, let a professional decide its dimensions based on size ratios and the type of support.

# CARE & MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Coverings ETC advocates for a simple cleaning regimen: water paired with a PH Neutral cleaner, used with a microfiber cloth or a gentle sponge.

## **Cleaning Recommendations**

Address spills promptly, especially acidic substances.

Brush away large grit to prevent scratching.

For routine cleaning, employ a PH Neutral detergent and a microfiber cloth.

Steer clear of cleaning agents with acidic or alkaline content; they can tarnish the surface. A recommended cleaning product and a mildly abrasive pad can do the trick for heavy staining.

## **Heat Management**

While Eco-Terr® Terrazzo slabs are fire-resistant, they can only endure brief stints of high heat. Consistent or extreme heat exposure might lead to discoloration, surface damage, or fine cracks.