



# TerraChip® Deco

## Application Instructions

### System Description

This document outlines the standard application guidelines for installation of the TerraChip® Deco decorative flooring system. The system is applied at 35 mils using the following components.

**Basecoat:** applied at 150 square feet/gallon (10.5 mils)

**TC Basecoat:** a 100% solids epoxy-polyamide basecoat

**LV Basecoat:** a 100% solids epoxy-polyamide basecoat

**Basecoat Redline Hardener:** 100% solids quick cure amine curing agent

**Basecoat Infrared Hardener:** 100% solids low temp/rapid cure amine curing agent

**TerraFlex:** a 100% solids urethane-modified epoxy basecoat for tile and wood floors

**TerraChip® Deco Aggregate:** mica chips which create the pattern; broadcast at 6.25 pounds/100 square feet

**Sealer LS:** a 100% solids light-stable epoxy seal coat; applied at 150-175 square feet/gallon (10-15 mils) for the first clear coat.

**TerraThane®:** a 100% solids aliphatic polyurea finish coat; applied at 200-300 square feet/gallon (6-8 mils) . 4 different versions are available—**TerraThane**, **TerraThane BlueLine**, **TerraThane RedLine**, **TerraThane Satin**.

**TerraGrip:** a polymer aggregate added to the clear coat to provide slip resistance; add 1-2 pints per 3 gallons of sealer

### Application Details

## 1. Concrete Condition

### 1.1 General

Concrete must be structurally sound and free of oil, grease, and other contaminants. New concrete must be thoroughly cured to prevent shrinkage cracks. Typically, 14 days at 70°F is sufficient.

### 1.2 Cracks, Sawcuts, Expansion Joints

Cracks, sawcuts, and expansion joints must be identified and characterized prior to installation. Cracks must be evaluated to determine if they are stable or moving. The method of crack treatment is dependent on the type of crack. Sawcuts and expansion joints should not be covered when the surface will experience changing temperatures.

### 1.3 Moisture

Excess moisture emissions can cause coating delamination. All concrete surfaces should be tested for moisture prior to applying a seamless coating. There are several methods available. ASTM D-4263 is a qualitative test using a plastic sheet. The calcium chloride test provides quantitative results. If moisture emissions exceed 3 lbs./1000 sq. ft., or concrete relative humidity exceeds 75% per ASTM F2170, TerraPrime MM may need to be installed prior to application of TerraChip® Deco. Contact applicator for details.

## 2. Environmental Conditions

### 2.1 General

Store materials in clean, dry conditions at temperatures between 65°F and 90°F. Consult TDS for application temperature guidelines, making sure the appropriate version of BaseCoat and TerraThane are used for the existing

conditions The temperature must remain within this range for a minimum of 24 hours after application. The surface temperature also be at least 5° above the dew point.

## 2.2 Rising Temperatures

Concrete will release air during periods of rising temperatures. This can result in bubbles in the coating even in apparently well sealed concrete. To prevent bubbling, always apply coatings when the application and cure temperatures will be constant or decreasing.

# 3. Surface Preparation

## 3.1 Cleaning

Oil, grease, and other contaminants will inhibit bonding. Remove by first scraping any thick, caked deposits, then by scrubbing with an appropriate cleaner. Always finish with a warm water rinse. Test the treated area with a 1:2 mix of muriatic acid and water. (Always add acid to water.) A white haze of bubbles indicates a clean concrete surface.

## 3.2 Surface Profile

Surface laitance and loose concrete must be removed. The substrate must be prepared to a surface profile of CSP 2 or 3 by diamond grinding or light shot blasting. Acid etching can be used on new concrete, but mechanical preparation is always preferred and is the only acceptable method for old concrete and for new concrete if curing agents, hardeners, or sealers are present.

## 3.3 Surface Repairs

**Voids, Popouts:** Remove all loose concrete from the damaged area. Fill as necessary with TerraRich or Patch Filler.

**Stable Cracks:** Minor shrinkage cracks can be bridged without special treatment. For wider cracks, route the crack in a “V” cut to a width of ½” and a depth of at least ¼”. Clean the area and fill with an epoxy grout.

**Moving Cracks:** Cracks less than 1/8” : Apply 8-10 mils of TerraFlex 16-24 inches wide centered on the crack.

For larger cracks, saw cut the crack to a width of ½” and a depth of at least 1”. Clean the area and insert closed cell backer rod leaving an opening ½” deep. Fill the crack with TerraFlex and apply 8-10 mils of TerraFlex 16-24 inches wide centered on the crack.

**Expansion Joints:** Remove all material from the joint and insert closed cell backer rod. Leave the backer rod protruding from the joint during application to prevent the joint from being filled. Install the flooring up to the backer rod. After installation, depress the backer rod to a depth of ½”. Lightly sand the edges of the flooring system adjacent to the joint. Depress the backer rod, clean the joint, and install an appropriate sealant.

**Drains:** If a drain is surrounded by a joint, treat as outlined above. Seal all drain openings prior to application

# 4. Mixing

## 4.1 Two Component Products

Premix Part A (resin) for 30 seconds with a drill and Jiffler or Hansen mixer. Slowly add Part B (catalyst) and continue mixing for 2 minutes. Mix at medium speed with the mixer immersed in the material to minimize air entrainment. Do not thin products.

# 5. Application

## 5.1 BaseCoat

There are two standard basecoats available: TC Basecoat and LV BaseCoat. 3 curing agents are available: BaseCoat Standard, BaseCoat Redline, and BaseCoat Infrared. For non standard substrates or added flexibility TerraFlex may be used.. The basecoat is tinted to match the dominant color in the TerraChip® Deco color blend. For the standard colors:

Gray basecoat: Oyster Bay, Pebble Beach, Crested Butte

Tan basecoat: Sutter’s Mill, Cripple Creek, El Dorado

Immediately after mixing, pour the material onto the floor in a 6-12" wide stream. Spread with a squeegee at 150 square feet/gallon. Backroll with a 3/8" roller to spread evenly. Pour subsequent mixes to overlap rolled material. Always pour into a wet edge. Pouring into an edge that has set will create a noticeable surface defect. If an application break is necessary, break at a wall, doorway, or joint.

## 5.2 TerraChip® Deco Aggregate

TerraChips® Deco are mica aggregate used to create the pattern. Chips may be ordered in 25 lbs boxes.

Broadcast the chips in an upward motion to allow them to rain onto the surface evenly. Consult TDS for specific working time for each basecoat version. Always keep chips at least three feet away from the wet edge of the basecoat. The seeding should leave no visible wet spots of the basecoat. An average rate of 6.25 lbs./100 square feet is required. Allow the surface to cure before continuing. Once the surface has cured, the excess chips must be removed.

TerraChip® BaseCoat:	Typical scrape time is 4-6 hours at 70°F material and slab temperature.
TerraChip® BaseCoat Redline:	Typical scrape time is 1.5-2 hours at 70°F material and slab temperature.
TerraFlex:	Typical scrape time is 16 hours at 70°F material and slab temperature.

When working on the unsealed chips, take care to not track dirt onto the dry TerraChip® Deco surface. Wear slip-on paper booties, cover your shoes with plastic bags, or work in your socks. Once basecoat is cured, Scrape the surface lightly in all four directions with a stiff non-marking rubber or plastic blade. Use of metal blades to scrape the mica chips may result in scratches that are visible in . Sweep the surface. Chips removed from floor prior to scraping can be reused. To reuse, mix three parts of new chips with one part of sweepings. This will prevent any inconsistencies due to the smaller chips from the sweep up.

Vacuum the surface before proceeding.

## 5.3 Sealer

The TerraChip® Deco requires two clear coats. Applying only one clear coat will result in a dangerously sharp and aggressive texture. The products used to seal the mica chips are as follows:

Sealer LS is a 100% solids light-stable epoxy based on hydrogenated epoxy technology.  
TerraThane® is a light-stable aliphatic polyurea available in 4 different versions

Apply Sealer LS first at 150-175 square feet/gallon. Additional chips may be broadcast into the first coat to correct inadequate or uneven broadcasting in the basecoat. Backroll as needed.

Once cured, and prior to application of the finish coat, the system must be lightly sanded to knock down the aggressive texture.

Apply TerraThane® as the finish coat at a rate of 200-300 square feet/gallon with a squeegee and backroll.

## 5.4 Texture

Ramps and areas that are frequently wet may require additional texture. This can be achieved with TerraGrip, a powdered aggregate that provides a uniform texture for added slip resistance. Mix 1-2 pints of TerraGrip aggregate per 3 gallon mix of TerraThane® and apply as normal. Note that a squeegee must be used to spread material to ensure consistent texture.

# 6. Cleanup

## 6.1 Two Component Products

Clean all equipment immediately after use with isopropanol (rubbing alcohol) or xylene. Read the SDS and follow all safety procedures for any cleaning material.

## 7. Cure Time

### 7.1 Recoat

All coatings can be recoated as soon as they accept foot traffic. Following are typical times at 70°F.

Sealer LS:	12 hours
TerraThane®:	10 hours

All coatings must be recoated within 24 hours. After 24 hours sanding is required before recoating.

### 7.2 Return to Service Guidelines for Standard TerraThane finish

	55°F	70°F	85°F
Foot Traffic	30 hours	16 hours	10 hours
Wheel Traffic	96 hours	72 hours	48 hours

## 8. Safety

### 8.1 Storage and Handling

Store products in a cool, dry area away from flames and sparks. Separate resins from hardeners. Safety Data Sheets are available and should be read before handling any material. Avoid contact with all materials to prevent irritation. Wear rubber gloves, protective clothing, and safety glasses. Use only with adequate ventilation.

### 8.2 Composition

TC and LV Basecoat, TerraFlex, and Sealer LS contain epoxy and amine resins. TerraThane® contains isocyanate and amine resins. TerraGrip is a polymer aggregate.

## 9. Floor Maintenance

### 9.1 Cleaning

Do not wash the floor within 5 days of installation. Exposure to water before the floor is completely cured may dull the finish. Avoid harsh chemical cleaning for ten days. To maintain the appearance and maximize the service life of the coating, clean regularly with a mild detergent and a floor scrubber with non-abrasive pads or brushes.

## 10. Technical Assistance

### 10.1 American Industrial

1218 W. 41st Street  
Suite B  
Tulsa, OK 74107

918-445-0627  
800-535-5053 (24 hour safety and medical help)  
[www.aiflooring.com](http://www.aiflooring.com)