

Stone & Tile Finishes:

A guide to surface integrity, finish compatibility, and service access in design-led environments

Specifying for stone & tile finishes

When architectural finish quality defines a project brief, the access floor becomes a critical design decision — not just a structural one. In hospitality and mixed-use environments, the relationship between the substrate and the surface material determines whether stone stays intact, tile remains level, and premium finishes perform as designed.

Typical Considerations:

Finish Type & Application

- Natural stone, ceramic, porcelain tile, and terrazzo each require a substrate that behaves as a unified, movement-free platform
- Brittle finish compatibility must be confirmed at system selection stage — not resolved during installation
- Panel joint control and substrate stiffness are the primary specification variables for stone and tile environments

Design Intent & Layout Flexibility

- Finish zones must be mapped to access floor system zones before documentation is issued
- Surface material changes across a floor plate — stone to carpet, tile to timber — require coordinated set-down planning at design stage
- Layout adaptability over the building lifecycle should be considered when locating access hatch positions relative to the finish schedule

Load & Traffic Conditions

- Expected static and rolling loads in high-traffic public zones
- Long-term finish integrity under sustained foot traffic
- Finish performance in lobbies, amenities, and food & beverage areas

Service Access & Maintenance

- Stone and tile finish zones require access hatches to be designed and integrated prior to installation
- Hatch locations must be coordinated at design stage and documented in the finish schedule



Why this Matters:

Finish failure in hospitality and mixed-use environments carries significant remediation cost. Understanding the relationship between substrate performance and surface material behaviour is what separates a quality specification from a costly one. Addressing these considerations early supports clearer briefs, smoother coordination between architects, designers, and specifiers — and finish outcomes that perform as specified from day one.

Supporting Resources:

Detailed environment guides, finish compatibility documentation, and system selection support are available on request to assist with project-specific finish and service access requirements.



Engineered access flooring solutions that support informed decisions, reliable performance, and long-term adaptability across all environments.



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A quick reference guide:

Environment Type	Recommended Systems	Core Selection Drivers
Stone / Tile Finish Zones	Urban Interlock	Interlocking edge profile eliminates differential panel movement; maintains finish integrity across stone, tile & terrazzo zones
High-Traffic Lobbies & Public Areas	Urban Interlock	Low-deflection rigid substrate for demanding foot traffic; long-term finish integrity in high-visibility zones
Open-Plan Mixed-Use Environments	Urban X, Icon X	Service flexibility, adaptable layouts, and finish compatibility across zones with carpet or resilient finishes
Elevated Void Zones in Stone Areas	Urban Rigid, Icon Rigid	Stringer-supported structure maintains rigidity and alignment at height; compatible with stone finish zones



System suitability should always be confirmed against project-specific load requirements, finish schedules, and compliance criteria.