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DRICore® Engineered Wood Subfloor Makes Its First Appearance at the Renovation & Restoration Exhibition

BOSTON (Mass.) -- Anyone who lives or works on concrete -- in a basement, a home or loft with concrete floors, or a workshop in the garage -- knows that even mats, pads and plush carpeting can't disguise concrete's pervasive chill and unforgiving surface.

But now there is DRICore®, an easy-to-install engineered wood subfloor that creates a warm, comfortable and dry environment with minimal impact on often-scarce headroom. DRICore is making its first appearance at the Renovation & Restoration Exhibition & Conference here, April 21-24 (**Booth # 312**).

As homeowners look for ways to expand the useful living space in their homes, those traditional storage spaces -- basements and garages -- frequently present the best options. DRICore is ideal for such projects because it has been engineered for comfort, durability, versatility and environmental friendliness -- essential considerations when turning utilitarian spaces into today's stylish and comfortable living areas.

An Easy, Affordable Weekend Project

Installing DRICore is an easy project that requires only simple tools and takes only one-third to one-half the time of a conventional subfloor. That means significant productivity improvements for professional contractors and turns installing a subfloor into an easy weekend project for novice do-it-yourselfers. The DRICore system consists

More . . .

of easy-to-handle 2' x 2' engineered wood panels bonded to a rigid, moisture-resistant polyethylene sheet with raised "cleats." The panels have a precision tongue-and-groove design and are press-fit together. DRICore is a "floating" floor, which means that seams are not nailed or glued, and in most cases, there is no need to anchor the panels to the concrete. At \$5.99 per panel or \$1.50 per sq. ft., DRICore is priced comparably to conventional subfloor components, without the hassles of a conventional installation.

Comfort

Because DRICore is a wood product, it can make a basement feel more like a main floor living area -- warm, dry and with that little bit of "give" that is characteristic of an "upstairs" wood floor.

The polyethylene cleats on the underside of each DRICore panel lift the finished floor off of the concrete, creating an airspace -- or thermal break -- between the cold concrete and finished floor. DRICore panels have an insulating value of R-1.7, or R-2 with the finished floor -- sufficient to make the floor feel at least six degrees warmer than the concrete underneath.

Managing Moisture

DRICore is an integral component in a moisture management plan that will create a healthy and comfortable basement project -- an important consideration in older homes where there is no vapor barrier under the concrete floor and basement dampness is more common. The space under the DRICore panels permits air to circulate, which dries up basement floor humidity and condensation and allows the concrete to breathe. By contrast, conventional subfloors or carpets laid directly on concrete can trap moisture.

The cleats also keep the wood core from coming into contact with the concrete, preventing long-term moisture damage to the wood and the finished floor over it. The engineered wood core allows for uniform expansion and contraction of the panels with normal changes in basement temperature and humidity.

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Durability

DRICore panels are engineered for strength. They are rated at over 5,500 lbs. per sq. ft. -- sturdy enough to support the heaviest furniture, including pianos and pool tables. Tested for extended periods in sauna-like conditions of heat and humidity that far exceed those found in typical basements, DRICore panels maintained their shape and did not warp or buckle.

DRICore carries a 25-year warranty. Recently introduced in the U.S., DRICore is the original engineered wood subfloor proven in thousands of successful installations in Canada.

Versatility

DRICore has been tested successfully with a variety of finish floor options, so homeowners can select the finish floor that best matches their lifestyle -- carpet, engineered hardwoods, vinyl or laminate.

In basements where headroom is at a premium, DRICore's thin 7/8-inch profile is a real plus, compared to a conventional subfloor that can reduce headroom by up to five inches.

While basements may be the most obvious use for DRICore, the product is also ideal for indoor slab-on-grade installations -- enclosing a patio, turning a garage into a family room or creating a comfortable, resilient floor around a workbench.

Environmentally Friendly

Laboratory tests have confirmed that DRICore will not support the growth of mold, which is the source of musty odors in basements and may cause respiratory problems for sensitive individuals. DRICore is fabricated of safe, non-toxic materials that are 100 percent recyclable.

The DRICore engineered subfloor system is a product of DRICore Division, Longlac Wood Industries, a unit of Kruger, Inc. Kruger is a major Canadian pulp and paper producer and a leader in sustainable forest ecosystems and recycling.

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