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DRIcore® Modular Subfloor System Delivers Comfortable Living on Concrete

Anyone who has spent time in a typical basement living space knows that even a plush carpet with an extra thick pad can't disguise the pervasive chill and unforgiving surface of the concrete floor underneath.

But now there is DRIcore®, the easy-to-install modular subfloor system that is an intelligent foundation for comfortable living spaces in basements or grade-level rooms built on concrete slabs.

Comfort

DRIcore is a modular system that consists of 2' x 2' engineered wood panels bonded to a rigid, moisture-resistant polyethylene sheet with molded-in dimples. The dimples on the underside of the DRIcore panel lift the wood core 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 six or seven degrees warmer than the concrete underneath.

Because DRIcore is a wood product, it has the subtle resilience that is characteristic of a wood floor and is more comfortable for walking or standing.

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An Easy, Affordable Project

Even novice do-it-yourselfers will find that installing DRICore is an easy weekend project that requires only simple tools.

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. In most cases, DRICore can be installed in one-third to one-half of the time of a conventional subfloor, which means greater productivity for professional contractors, too.

Dealing with small, uneven areas in the concrete is easy with DRICore's leveling shims -- small squares of the same dimpled polyethylene material used on the underside of the DRICore panels. Simply stack the necessary number of shims on the underside of the panel at the low spot in the floor, until the panel is leveled.

At about \$1.50 per sq. ft., DRICore is priced comparably to conventional subfloor components, without the hassles of a conventional installation. (An 11- by 14-foot room would require about \$250 worth of DRICore.)

Versatility

DRICore has been tested and installed successfully with a variety of finished floor options, so homeowners can select the floor covering that best matches their lifestyle -- carpet, engineered hardwood, laminate or vinyl. In utilitarian applications, where comfort is the only consideration, such as a space around a workbench, the wood surface of DRICore can be sealed for protection and no other floor covering material is required.

DRICore's thin, 7/8-inch profile has minimal impact on headroom, compared to a conventional subfloor over concrete that can reduce headroom by up to five inches.

Durability

DRICore panels are engineered for strength. Rated at over 5,500 lbs. per sq. ft., they are sturdy enough to support the heaviest furniture, including pianos and pool tables.

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Tested for extended periods in sauna-like conditions of heat and humidity far exceeding those found in typical homes and basements, DRICore panels maintained their shape without warping or buckling.

Managing Moisture

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

The dimples on the underside of each panel 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 temperature and humidity.

Environmentally Friendly

Laboratory tests have confirmed that DRICore and its component materials will not support the growth of mold, which is the source of musty odors and may cause respiratory problems for sensitive individuals. DRICore is fabricated of safe, non-toxic materials that are 100 percent recyclable. DRICore carries a 25-year warranty.

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

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