



The Foundation for Better Living

Detailed Installation of DRICore

Allow panels to stand for at least 24 hours by stacking or laying them out on the floor with the plastic cleated surface down. Check with the finished wood flooring manufacturer for their recommended temperature and humidity guidelines.

In your selected starting corner, lay the first panel with the groove sides flat against the spacers. Slide the next panel into place by connecting the groove side into the tongue of the first panel. Use a tapping block with a hammer to make sure this second panel is snug to the first panel, and to the wall spacer. Repeat this panel placement the length of the wall.

Once you reach the last panel in the row, chances are good that you'll have to cut the panel to fit. Measure to fit tight against the 1/4" spacer. Cut the panel to size and press into place with the pull bar. Ensure at least a 6" wide or more panel section fits as the final piece.

Before you start the second row, check the first row for leveling and adjust any panels that bounce, with a DRICore leveling shim. Note that each row of DRICore panels should be staggered at their seams.

Row #3 looks just like Row #1. Starting Row #3 with a full size panel will create the natural seam offset. Row #4 would be staggered again as in Row #2.

The first three rows are the most critical to the success of a well formed subfloor. Take your time, and place down one row at a time installing tightly to prevent any seam separation.

Continue to install the floor, checking for leveling and adjusting with DRICore leveling shims as necessary. Work from one side of the room to the other, one row at a time.

When you reach the last row to complete your installation, chances are good that you'll have to cut the panel lengthwise for fit. Measure for fit, keeping in mind the additional (1/4") expansion space from the wall that is required. Cut the panel to size and press into place with the pull bar.

When all of your panels are in place, you can remove the spacers around the perimeter of the room depending on the finished flooring application. See finished flooring section of the FAQ's for more information.

The Leveling Kit

The leveling squares have been designed for use with the DRICore system for areas where your basement floor is uneven. They simply fit over the cleats on the underside of the DRICore panels, raising the panels to the desired level.

Place the leveling square over the area of the panel where you feel the height adjustment is necessary. Slide the square until it "nests" or "cups" into place on the underside of DRICore panel.

In some cases, you may need to stack 2, 3 or more leveling squares together to get the right height adjustment needed to level the panel.

To hold the leveling square(s) in place when you flip the panel face down, we suggest using a small piece of tape on the corners of the square(s) to hold them in place. Once the panel is seated in place on the floor, the square(s) will not shift.

NOTE: Any dips or low spots in the concrete surface greater than 1/4" should be trowelled level with a Portland cement-based compound.

Finish With Flooring

Carpet - To prevent panel uplift when stretching carpet, fasten DRlcore panels to the concrete floor with flat head concrete fasteners every four feet at perimeter edges and one in the panel in the centre of the room. Install tack strips on top of the DRlcore panels around the perimeter of the room, to hold the carpet down. Install underpad and carpet. Do not glue the underpad or carpet directly to the DRlcore panels.

Laminate - Install the floor manufacturer's foam underpad and laminate flooring on top of the DRlcore panels. The installation of a continuous vapour barrier on top of DRlcore is permitted as long as it is not sealed to the perimeter wall. Only remove the 1/4" wall spacers after the laminate floor has been installed.

Engineered Hardwood - Only install wood flooring finishes approved for use below grade. For nail-down floors a 1/4" plywood underlayment should be fastened to DRlcore panels first. Use only approved 1-1/2" barbed flooring cleats. Remove the 1/4" wall spacers after the wood flooring has been installed.

NOTE: The National Wood Flooring Association defines below grade as any part of a concrete floor that is 4" or more below the soil level. Do not glue engineered hardwood floors directly to DRlcore panels.

Tile - DRlcore is designed to act as a floating subfloor. It is not recommended that ceramic tile be directly attached to DRlcore as the movement of the floating subfloor will cause tile and grout lines to crack. In the case of a ceramic installation, prepare concrete floor by applying liquid concrete leveling compound to the concrete floor surface to eliminate concrete floor height variances. Fasten each DRlcore panel with five, flat head and countersunk, concrete fasteners to the permanent concrete floor to prevent movement or shifting of the finished ceramic tile floor. We recommend one in each of the four corners and one in the centre of the panel. DRlcore panels must lay perfectly stable without bounce or deflection. If you detect any deflection, install another concrete fastener in that location. Install only an approved ceramic tile underlayment ei: cement board on top of DRlcore. Follow the underlayment manufacturer's installation guidelines for fastening to a subfloor.

NOTE: Please note that we also do not recommend gluing underlayments or other wood flooring materials to DRlcore. In addition to the aforementioned, a sound recommendation would be to have one person walk the floor. Step heavy or bounce, with the other looking for vertical movement of panels. If there is noticeable movement, mark the areas in question with an X and install another concrete fastener.

Vinyl Sheets and Vinyl Tiles - A 1/4" plywood underlayment approved for use with sheet vinyl or adhesive-backed vinyl tiles should be fastened to the DRlcore panels. We do not recommend lauan plywood as an underlayment. Use 5/8" fasteners that do not penetrate the moisture barrier on the underside of the DRlcore panels. Do not glue the plywood underlayment to DRlcore panels. Do not glue adhesive-backed vinyl tiles directly to DRlcore panels. Glue the vinyl floor to the plywood underlayment according to the vinyl manufacturer's installation instructions. Only remove the 1/4" wall spacers until after the vinyl floor has been installed.

Hardwood Flooring (ABOVE GRADE only) - Fasten every 4th DRlcore panel, every other row, to the concrete floor with Tapcon type cement fasteners to anchor DRlcore panels to the concrete floor. Dab silicone sealer into the pre-drilled fastener openings. Attach 4' x 4' x 1/4" underlayment plywood with 5/8" fasteners to the surface of DRlcore panels prior to installing the hardwood floor. Do not use lauan plywood as an underlayment. Install building paper, wax paper or another similar layer of friction or noise reducing material between the underlayment and finished floor as normally performed. Use approved fasteners that do not puncture the underside of DRlcore panels. 1-1/2" barbed flooring cleats are recommended.

NOTE: Only remove the 1/4" wall spacers until after the wood flooring has been installed. Contact the finished wood flooring manufacturer for their warranty and installation instructions.

Radiant Matt - Install the DRlcore as per the above installation instructions. Lay the matt radiant flooring system of your choice. Install the floor manufacturer's foam underpad and laminate flooring on top of the radiant matt.

Making Interior walls

An interior stud wall can be set right on top of your new DRICore subfloor, and is, in fact, the preferred method of installation. Install your 2"X4" frame directly on top of the subfloor, measuring for a "snug" fit between the subfloor and ceiling.

Once the frame is in position, simply screw the bottom plates of the 2"X4" frame to the DRICore panels, using 2" wood screws. To finish the anchoring process, we suggest fastening the bottom plate to the concrete floor using either 3" concrete nails or self-tapping concrete fasteners.

Only minimal fastening to the concrete is required. For example, for every 8' length of base plate, install only two concrete anchors. Note: If you are planning to use metal studs in place of wood, the base track for the studs should be affixed to the DRICore panels with 5/8" wood screws as a maximum. Metal stud base plates should be anchored in concrete every 2' when installing over DRICore panels.

Miscellaneous Details

Additional Ventilation: To increase air flow and/or to remediate for leakage, install floor grilles or register covers around perimeter wall edges 8'-10' apart.

Height Transitions: Wood transition or reducing strips that are available in the floor and molding departments should be used to bridge floor height variances.

Exterior Door Transitions: Here are a few ideas for installing DRICore up to an existing exterior door area that, when combined with the finished flooring material, is higher than the door threshold:

Install ceramic tile, in a small section large enough to allow for the door opening, as a transition up to DRICore panels and the finished floor.

For steel exterior doors that cannot be trimmed, raise the door header, if possible, to account for the heights of DRICore and the finished floor.

For wood exterior doors, trim the door and raise the door threshold to accommodate for the new floor height.

The success of any finished floor depends on the characteristics and the quality of the materials used and the nature of the installation. DRICore (Kruger Panels Inc) does not extend any express or implied warranties to finished floors installed over its DRICore product. [Click here for complete warranty details.](#)

Special Health Protection Information - Personal Protective Equipment: Wear goggles or safety glasses, work gloves and approved dust mask when cutting panels. Use an approved respirator in dusty or enclosed environments.

Work Area Ventilation - Minimize airborne wood dust by always cutting panels in a well-ventilated space. Promptly clean up any accumulations of wood dust and do not use blow-down or other practices which may generate high dust concentrations when cutting panels.

We're here to help. Contact us at 1-866-767-6374, help@dricore.com or visit www.dricore.com