

DRICore® FAQ's

Where can DRICore® Subfloor panels be installed?

DRICore® Subfloor can be installed in basements, slab-on-grade homes, garages, workshops, storage rooms, bathrooms, laundry rooms and above ground concrete floors.

How long does it take to install DRICore® Subfloor panels?

The length of installation time will vary by the room size and complexity of room layout. At an average of 100 sq. ft./hour, it takes 50-60% less time than a conventional subfloor would.

Can I install it myself?

Yes, the easy-to-handle, free-floating 7/8" x 23 1/2" x 23 1/2" panels are configured with a tapered tongue and groove edge making panel assembly fast and easy.

How many panels/leveling kits will I need?

Estimating is made easy. The total square footage of your room divided by 3.3 equals the number of panels you need. This factor includes an allowance for normal wastage and cutting around obstacles and pipes. See back page for panel and leveling kit estimation table.

Can I install perimeter or interior walls directly on top of the DRICore® Subfloor panels?

Yes, stud walls can be set right on top of your new DRICore® Subfloor. See inside for complete instructions.

What if my walls are already in place?

No problem. Drywall should already be in place or installed prior to DRICore® Subfloor panel installation. It is recommended when installing drywall to leave a 1/4" gap between the concrete floor and the base of the drywall to avoid moisture contamination. See inside for complete instructions.

What floor coverings can be installed over DRICore® Subfloor panels?

Carpet, laminate, engineered hardwood, tile or vinyl can be installed over DRICore® panels. See inside for complete instructions.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Contact DRICore® customer service at
1-866-767-6374

(9am-5pm ET - Monday to Friday)

or visit

www.DRICore.com

How many DRICore® panels and leveling kits do I need?

Use this simple formula to determine the number of panels and leveling kits required for your project.

$$\text{Room square footage} \div 3.3 = \text{Number of panels required}$$

We recommend one leveling kit for every 60 panels.

ROOM SIZE	AREA (SQ. FT.)	# OF PANELS REQUIRED	LEVELING KITS
10' X 10'	100	31	1
14' X 16'	224	68	2
16' X 20'	320	97	2
20' X 24'	480	146	3



25 YEARS OF SOLID PROTECTION

It's one thing to lay down a great subfloor, and even better to know that you are protected by our warranty for many years to come.

For complete warranty details visit www.DRICore.com



The Foundation for Better Living

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DO-IT-YOURSELF INSTALLATION GUIDE



The Foundation for Better Living

Creating the warm, dry, comfortable basement of your dreams is at your fingertips.



The Foundation for Better Living

You've made the smart choice

DRICore® Subfloor panels promote good indoor air quality by allowing your concrete to breathe which in turn reduces the potential for mold. Enjoy peace of mind knowing that you're protecting your family and the investment you have made in your basement and your home.

Your new subfloor is only an afternoon away

DRICore® Subfloor panels are the fastest, easiest way to maximize the use of your home, and add additional value to your largest financial investment. Use this installation guide to help you create a warm, dry, comfortable basement you can be proud of.



Create the basement of your dreams

DRICore® Subfloor is the first step to a perfect finished basement. DRICore® is ideal under carpet, laminate, engineered hardwood, tile or vinyl flooring. Creating the perfect basement den, home gym, games room or kid's recreation room has never been easier.



Make the smart choice.
Be a basement hero.

www.DRICore.com

WHY DRICORE® SUBFLOOR?

DRICore® is the first and most important step toward creating a new living space as warm and comfortable as any other space in your home. DRICore® is the one-step engineered subfloor solution that is specifically designed for basements. The raised moisture barrier covers cold, damp concrete to protect, insulate and cushion your finished floors.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN, read these instructions completely



ASK ABOUT OUR
**FREE
INSTALLATION
DVD**

IMPORTANT HEALTH PROTECTION INFORMATION

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Wear goggles or safety glasses, work gloves and an approved dust mask when cutting panels. Use an approved respirator in dusty or enclosed spaces.

VENTILATE YOUR WORK SPACE

Accumulated wood dust can contaminate your home and be a food source for mold. To prevent in-home dust concentrations, clean up dust and cut panels outside or in a well-ventilated garage. For the DRICore® Material Safety Data Sheet see the Healthy Home section at www.DRICore.com or call DRICore® customer service.

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Pencil
- Level
- Pull bar
- Tape measure
- Wood tapping block
- Large carpenter's square
- Circular jig or hand saw
- Rubber mallet or hammer

PLAN YOUR DRICore® SUBFLOOR

EXPANSION GAP

To allow for airflow and some expansion and contraction, it is recommended that panels have 1/4" space from all perimeter walls and room obstacles, such as support posts and stairs. (See **1** in Figure 1). A lumber department will have 1/4" strapping off cut stock or other inexpensive 1/4" dimensional lumber for use as spacer material.

FASTENING PANELS TO CONCRETE

DRICore® is installed as a modular floating floor normally requiring no gluing or fastening of the tongue and groove seams. However, in some instances, such as installing walls on top of DRICore® or the stretching of wall-to-wall carpets, we recommend fastening the panels to the concrete surface.

ROOM VENTILATION

Maintaining a consistent temperature of 21 °C/70 °F and a relative humidity of 30% to 50% in the room where DRICore® will be installed are a few key steps that will help ensure a reliable finished flooring installation. During times of high humidity, run a dehumidifier appropriate to the room(s) size. Leave a clearance between trimwork and finished floor for an unobstructed perimeter edge air space.

FLOOR DRAINS

Access to functioning floor drains/clean-outs should be maintained and not restricted. (See **2** in Figure 1). When installing DRICore® over a drain/clean-out, make sure to create an easy to lift access opening through the finished floor. Check with your local building code authority for recommendations prior to installation.

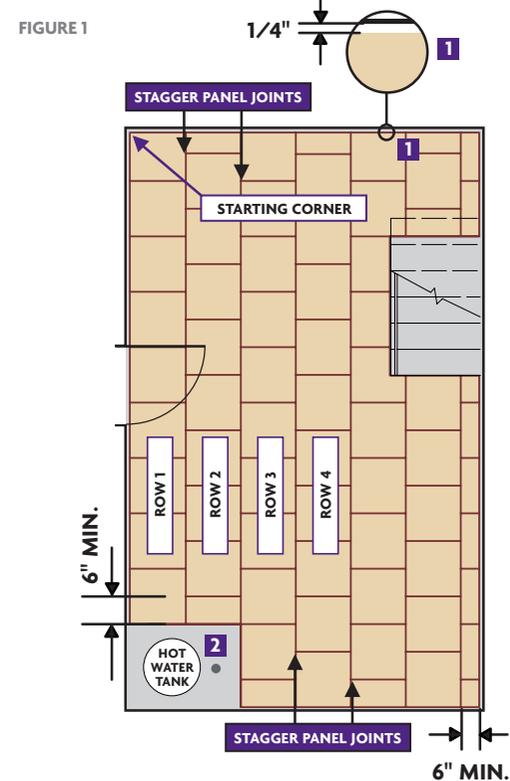
PANEL ACCLIMATIZATION

Allow DRICore® panels to stand for at least 24 hours in the room where they will be installed, by stacking or layering them out onto the floor with the plastic cleated surface down.

HOW MANY PANELS ARE REQUIRED?

Refer to back page to find out how many DRICore® panels and leveling kits are required for your project.

SAMPLE BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN



1 1/4" space from all perimeter walls and room obstacles

2 Floor drain

CONCRETE FLOOR PREPARATION

1. Sweep, vacuum and remove any debris, dirt, bumps or ridges on the concrete surface that may interfere with the seating of DRICore® panels. A perfectly clean concrete floor is mandatory for a successful installation.

2. Any dips or low spots in the concrete surface greater than 1/4" should be troweled level with a Portland cement compound or leveled with a self-leveling compound to ensure a successful installation.

3. Institutions where the concrete has an existing subfloor and/or a floor covering that may trap, block or absorb moisture, we recommend it be removed before installing DRICore® panels. Check with DRICore® customer service for advice on removing existing flooring.

DRICore® LEVELING KITS

The leveling shims have been designed to slide under DRICore® panels, to adjust for uneven areas on your concrete floors that are less than 1/4". Leveling squares can be installed between two DRICore® panels and, if necessary can be cut in half to fit.



BEGINNING THE INSTALLATION

1. Measure the length and width of the room from a selected starting corner to ensure the last panel in each row measures greater than 6". Trim the side of the first panel or the tops of the starting row, if necessary, to account for the row end pieces. Or, loosely lay the panels down to dry-fit a test row.

2. Check starting corner for square-ness. If the starting corner is not at a 90° angle, then the wall edge of your first row of panels will need to be cut.

3. In the selected starting corner, lay the first panel with the groove side flat against the 1/4" spacer material.

4. Slide the next panel against the starting panel by press-fitting the groove of the second panel into the tongue of the first panel. Use a tapping block and hammer to ensure the panels fit snugly. Repeat until each row is complete.

5. Cut the last panel of each row to fit into place allowing for the 1/4". Use a pull bar to pull the last panel into place.

6. Check each completed row for leveling and use leveling squares as required. Stagger panel seams of alternating rows by using off-cuts from a previous row as the starting panel. (See Figure 1).

7. 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.

8. The first three rows are the most critical to a successful DRICore® Subfloor. To prevent any seam separation, take your time and install tightly. Working with more than two rows at a time makes leveling and moving panels more difficult.

9. Continue the floor installation. Work from one side of the room to the other, one row at a time pressing panels together to ensure a snug fit.

10. When you reach the last row and the last panel, it may become necessary to cut the panel(s) to fit. Measure for fit, allowing for the additional 1/4" expansion space from the wall. Cut and press into place with a pull bar.

11. When all panels are in place and the finished floor is installed, remove the spacers around the perimeter of the room.



HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

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1-866-767-6374

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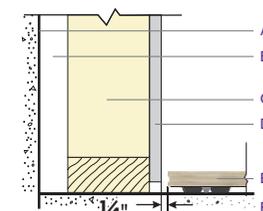
or visit

www.DRICore.com

INSTALLATION OF BASEMENT STUD WALLS

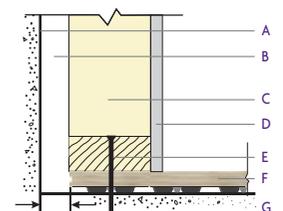
DRICore® panels can be installed where there is an existing wall frame or a concrete foundation wall. Where only a concrete foundation exists, it is best to install wall framing directly on top of DRICore® panels to elevate the floor and wall framing away from direct contact of potentially damp concrete. Whether framing currently exists or will be installed on top of DRICore® panels, be sure to use the temporary 1/4" spacer between DRICore® panels and the existing wall structure to allow for expansion and air circulation.

FIGURE 2 - Section - Finished Walls



A - Concrete foundation wall
B - 1" air space
C - Existing perimeter insulated stud wall
D - Drywall
E - DRICore® panel
F - Concrete Floor

FIGURE 3 - Section - Unfinished Walls



A - Concrete foundation wall
B - 1" air space
C - Existing perimeter insulated stud wall
D - Drywall
E - 1/4" x 3/4" concrete fastener through base-plate (1 for every 4ft.)
F - DRICore® panel
G - Concrete Floor

FINISHED FLOOR OPTIONS

CARPET: To prevent panel uplift when stretching carpet, fasten DRICore® 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 DRICore® 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 DRICore® panels.

LAMINATE: Install the floor manufacturer's foam underpad and laminate flooring on top of the DRICore® panels. The installation of a continuous vapour barrier on top of DRICore® 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 DRICore® 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 DRICore® panels.*

TILE: DRICore® is designed to act as a floating subfloor. It is not recommended that ceramic tile be directly attached to DRICore® 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 DRICore® 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. DRICore® 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 ie: cement board on top of DRICore®. 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 DRICore®. 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 insert 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 DRICore® 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 DRICore® panels. Do not glue the plywood underlayment to DRICore® panels. Do not glue adhesive-backed vinyl tiles directly to DRICore® panels. Glue the vinyl floor to the plywood underlayment according to the vinyl manufacturer's installation instructions. Only remove the 1/4" wall spacers after the vinyl floor has been installed.