

EPISODE #2014 SUB FLOOR LOVE

Furnace Discussion Points:

A furnace's efficiency rating, or AFUE (Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency), tells you how efficiently the furnace uses fuel (gas or oil). In general, higher efficiency furnaces mean lower monthly operating costs for heating.

The government-mandated minimum AFUE rating for furnaces installed in new homes is 78%. In contrast, many furnaces manufactured before 1992 had AFUE ratings as low as 60%!!

George's new furnace, a Carrier WeatherMaker Inifity combines variable capacity technology and gas-conserving components to heat at ratings ranging from 92.7% to 96.6% AFUE - hence it's new nickname "The Cadillac of Furnaces!" (fig. A,B)

Usually, the higher the efficiency, the more expensive the initial cost of the furnace, but you will undoubtedly see the higher cost of a high-efficiency furnace paid back through lower utility bills in a few short years. Just ask George. (See furnace details at bottom of page)

Switching to Gas Heating?

You will need to contact your local gas company to install a gas line. If there is gas already available in your neighborhood, it won't cost you to have a line hooked up to the exterior of your house.

Once the main feed line is installed, you will need to contact a local heating company, like Clement-Marchand Heating and Air-Conditionning to nstall the lines inside your house. Clement-Marchand will also assist you in purchasing the right Carrier furnace for your house. Keep in mind that you may have to replace your water heater as well as your furnace. Your furnace installer will be able to help you with this decision as well.

Basic Steps to Consider:

Sub Floor

The boys used the DRIcore system for the subfloor. What is DRIcore? Different from how a conventional subfloor is built, DRIcore does not have to be fastened to the concrete surface, or require any plastic sheeting or wooden sleepers that will eventually become full of mould and mildew due to condensation.



A. The Cadillac of Furnaces



B. Prepare to remove old furnace



C. Install spacers around the room.



D. DRIcore squares snap together.





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Here's how it works.

Polyethylene cleats raise the wafer board core off the floor, away from dampness and cold.

DRIcore panels are available in easy to handle squares that snap together quickly and easily. The tongue and groove design of these panels will have you finishing your basement in record time.

Before installing the panels, you need to lay spacers around the room to allow for the panels to contract and expand. We used 2x4s around the perimeter of the room. You can use a spacer as small as 1/4" -we got a little carried away!! Don't worry, these spacers will be removed once you've installed the subfloor. (fig. C,E)

Tips on DRIcore installation: stagger the seams for stronger floor support; you will need a table saw and jig saw to cut panels to fit around obstructions. (fig. F)

Framing

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Tip: Build your frames on the floor first, then raise and nail into the joist. (fig. G)

- Because George has furnace ducts in the way of the joists, they put up strapping (2x4s) and drilled them into the wall using a hammer drill (see Tool of the Day). They then attached the framed wall to this strapping. (fig. H)
- Before attaching the framed wall, you will need to plumb the wall and mark where the bottom will be attached to subfloor at each end. Snap a chalk line between the two points. (fig. I,J)
- Check plumb once frame is up and tack (nail) into the subfloor to hold in place. (fig. K)
- Drill the frame into the concrete floor using concrete anchors. (fig. L)
- Once the frame is drilled into the floor, you can remove the tacks.

Tips: For framing walls, keep studs 16" on centre. With all the ducts, beams and obstructions, a lot of improvisation is necessary. Keep in mind that these framed walls are not structural, which is a very good thing! (fig. M,N)



E. Cutting the DRIcore.



F. Whack the panels together



G. Build your frames first.



H. Put up strapping.



