



DriTac trowels are made with contoured handles and high tempered carbon steel notched blades.

A full installation cannot be completed without the proper tools. These tools can span from small tools like tape measures and moisture meters to larger tools such as cutting or trimming machines. Tools can help with every step of the installation process from subfloor prep to floor finishing. These can include levelers, repair kits, rollers, saws — the list goes on.

The installer should have tools for cutting, mixing, measuring, moisture reading and anything else that will be needed on the job site. Every job site is different, so it is in the installers' best interest to do necessary preparation before the project begins. The importance of installation tools cannot be overlooked. Their purpose is to assist the installer and make their installation easier and less time consuming. Most of all, these tools can make the project safer for the installer.

Of course, different products have different installation requirements and best practices, and some flooring types are easier to install than others. Logan Reavis, technical services manager with Mapei, stressed that advanced or complicated installations should only be performed by

qualified installers who should be paid more for their extensive experience and skills — and that this must be communicated to the customer during the sale.

"Floors don't install themselves much in the same way that paintings don't paint themselves. You can provide the most expensive paints and a perfect canvas, but the experience, tools, attention-to-detail and God-given talent of the artist is the difference between a masterpiece and a disaster," he said. "Understanding the customer's vision and expectations for their installation will help you estimate and better explain the total cost of their new floor."

Robert Varden, CEO of the International Certified Flooring Installers Association (CFI), added that even after the installation is complete, the installer's responsibility isn't done. "You want to be sure you're properly protecting those new floors when moving furniture, appliances, washing machines, refrigerators — they can scratch it. Even installers sometimes, if they're moving stuff back in, can damage the beautiful floors they've just installed. Protect the integrity of the installation and have proper protection when moving things back into place."

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Products like DriTac's MegaBond help minimize vinyl plank shrinkage.