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Your Tea Break Guide to Underfloor Heating



Have you ever considered adding underfloor heating to your home? It's proven to **reduce your energy bills**, makes designing the layout of your rooms much **easier** and gives off **more warmth than radiators**. Did we also mention that it can **add value to your property**?

While homeowners recently said underfloor heating is fourth on the list of things they'd love to have in their property, our own research showed two fifths of you still aren't quite sure what it is, how it works, which systems are available and how to get it installed. Sound like you? If so, **carry on reading**.



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Is underfloor heating for you?

Are you modernising or renovating your home and looking for ways to save money on energy bills? Or perhaps you like the idea of integrating smart technology with the opportunity to have total control of your home? If yes, underfloor heating is for you.

We recently spoke to 1,000 homeowners and asked them about the challenges they face in their homes that underfloor heating could resolve. Do these ring any bells?

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Challenge



Solution

75% said they haven't been able to put furniture where they want because of radiators

Hidden under your choice of floor covering, underfloor heating offers complete design freedom

84% - perhaps unsurprisingly - pay more for their energy in winter

Distributing heat at a lower overall temperature, underfloor heating improves the efficiency of your system and saves you money

62% experience hot and cold patches in their home due to the way radiators work

Underfloor heating is a radiant, even heat, meaning it circulates around your whole space, not just parts of it

82% have experienced excessive dust in their home due to their radiators

Not a problem with underfloor heating - the pipework is invisible once fitted, so it stays out of the way and doesn't circulate dust. This results in less cleaning time for you!

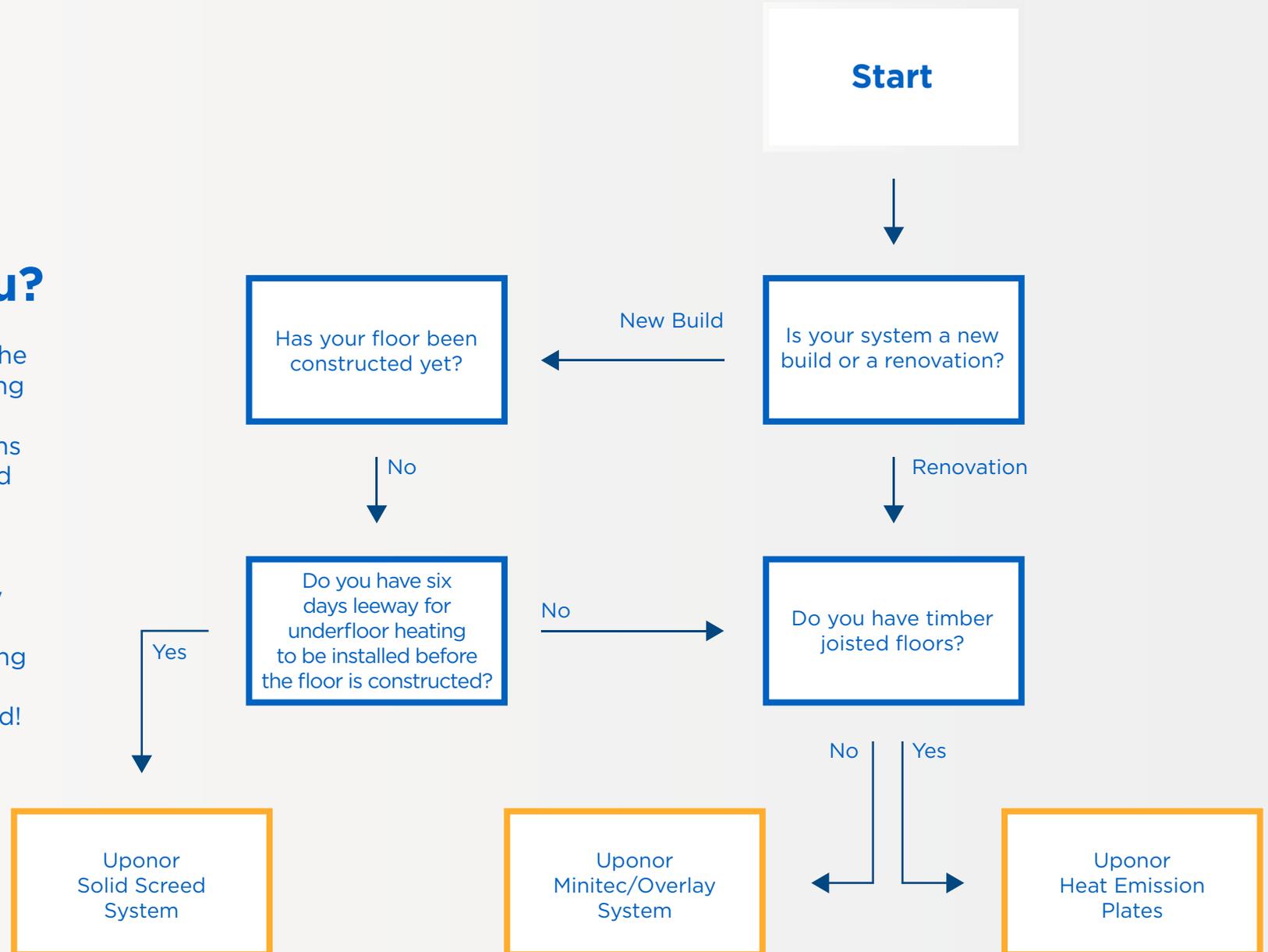
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Which system is right for you?

So now we've established the difference underfloor heating can make to your life, let's have a look at which systems are on offer and what would work for you.

To make it a bit more fun, we've put together a handy flowchart which will guide you to the underfloor heating system we think best suits your needs. Let's get started!



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And just like that...

You're in the know. If this is your first time considering underfloor heating, you might not have heard of any of these systems before. To help you out, we have provided a little bit more info on each below:

Uponor Solid Screed:

This is the most cost effective and efficient way of installing underfloor heating for new builds or extensions. The system is incorporated into the build of the house at the design stages, so if you're buying a new build property make sure your contractor knows you want underfloor heating before construction starts.



Uponor Minitec/Overlay:

Quite simply, Uponor Minitec is a low profile underfloor heating solution - only 15mm thick - making it ideal for renovation projects where you don't want to excavate the floors. Minitec heats up 60% quicker than standard underfloor heating systems and your installation will be fully completed in just three days and ready to walk on after 24 hours.



Uponor Heat Emission Plates:

If you own an older property, a system that works together with joisted flooring will be your best option. Heat emission plates have been developed specifically with this type of project in mind. They're quick and clean to fit, and can be walked on immediately after installation.



Next Steps:

Now you know a bit more about the systems on offer, you can explore each in greater depth with an Uponor installer. Give us a call on **01923 927000**, tell us the outcome of your journey through the flowchart, and we'll put you in touch with the right installer who can advise on next steps.

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'Alexa, turn up the heat!'

Whether it's a virtual home assistant or your strangely intuitive TV, more and more of you are using smart technology as part of your day-to-day lives. In fact, Smart Home Week - an entire week dedicated to smart tech within the home - recently announced that there are now 15 million 'smart homes' in Britain. So, why not consider adding your heating to the smart mix?

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Ease of control

Uponor's Smatrix Pulse works with your home assistants, like Alexa Voice Control and Google Voice Assistant, meaning you can control your heating in the same way you would play your favourite music. Want to turn up the heat? Simply ask Alexa to do it for you. If you're not at home, you can also use the Smatrix Pulse App to control your underfloor heating from anywhere through a smartphone or tablet. Using the app, it is possible to prevent other members of your household cranking up the heat while you're away - very handy for reducing those bills!

Personal comfort

Smatrix Pulse is designed to help you get the most out of your heating and creates the ideal temperature within your home for each person living there. Everyone can create a personalised perfect temperature according to their needs to ensure optimum comfort. The system also monitors the temperature of each room and reacts immediately to changes, like the installation of new windows or if you put down rugs! Clever, huh?

Weather worries

Can you safely say your heating system is prepared for a sudden weather change? The Smatrix Pulse app includes a weather forecast button, so you can easily see what the next few days has in store and adjust your underfloor heating system to suit this, in real-time.

Peace of mind

We understand the security of internet-controlled systems is really important. Smatrix Pulse uses the latest encryption technology to protect your personal data at all times. As an added extra, you can grant access rights to your trusted installer, allowing them to check your system or make improvements quickly from anywhere. No need to wait in for a plumber again!

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Take the hassle out of underfloor heating installation

If you've decided underfloor heating is the next step you want to take in your home improvements mission, it's time to find a tradesperson to carry out the work. To help you understand the underfloor heating lingo, and arm you with all the things you might need to ask yourself and an installer before giving them the job, we've put together a helpful glossary of terms and some FAQs. You can thank us later.

Where can I find a reputable installer?

The easiest way to find a reputable installer is by using a company that has been approved by a manufacturer. We have a comprehensive list of Uponor Approved Installers, all of whom have been assessed and are experts in installing Uponor Underfloor Heating. You can find your nearest trusted tradesperson by contacting Uponor at marketing.uk@uponor.com.

Am I being ripped off?

Prices amongst installers will fluctuate depending on how much experience they have, the level of service they offer and the quality of products they use. Get quotes from three underfloor heating installers and compare prices; this will give you a good idea for the going rate in your area and allow you to make a more informed decision.

What does it mean?

Some of the terminology that installers use regarding underfloor heating installation can be difficult to follow. On the next page, we've pulled together some of the most commonly used phrases with a description of what they mean, so you and your installer can speak the same language during the installation.

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Zones:

It's an area that you wish to control independently via a room thermostat. It can be one room or multiple rooms - most commonly one.

Manifold:

A manifold is a central point where the loops on your underfloor piping get connected to. It's also used to control and isolate the flow of water so your zones can be managed easily.

Mixing valves:

A mixing valve sets the temperature of the water flowing through your underfloor heating system from the boiler.

Retrofit:

A retrofit installation is when underfloor heating is fitted in an existing property i.e. - not a new build - that might be under renovation or having new floor coverings fitted.

Excavate:

The removal of your current floor to facilitate screed underfloor heating systems.

Overlay:

An underfloor heating system that is installed on top of your existing floor.



What should you ask your installer?

If you're still not sure about the installers you've spoken with, asking the following questions should help:

- How much experience do you have installing water-based underfloor heating?
- Which manufacturers' products do you use?
- Do you have any manufacturer approved training?
- What aftercare support do you provide?
- Will you screed the floor or will I need to find another installer to do that?
- How long will the job take you?

Too hot to handle:

Underfloor heating myths that **STILL** need busting

Here, we look at the top misconceptions surrounding underfloor heating in an attempt to debunk some of the myths you might've come across before.



Isn't underfloor heating only suitable for tiled floors?

No! From carpet to ceramic tiles, laminate to LVT, underfloor heating works with the majority of floor coverings. Some choices work better than others; for example hard surfaces, like ceramic tiles, can transfer heat from the underfloor heating to the surface of the floor effectively, when compared with carpet. But underfloor heating will still work well with carpet as long as the underlay partnered with it is not too thick and under 2.5 togs.

Can't I only have underfloor heating downstairs?

This is a common query we receive and the answer is no. Wherever you want underfloor installed within the home, there is a system available to suit your needs. There are systems available for non-ground floor rooms, such as our Minitec. It's an industry leading, 15mm thick system, making it ideal for retrofits and upper floor installations.

Won't underfloor heating cause heat damage to my furniture?

No - not if used correctly. Dependent on the system you have, underfloor heating should never reach temperatures higher than 29 degrees Celsius on the floor, which is not hot enough to damage your furniture.

Will my energy bills go up if I have underfloor heating installed?

Our research shows that 34% of people think underfloor heating is more expensive to run than radiators, but they couldn't be more wrong. In fact, water-based underfloor heating can offer significant cost savings when compared with traditional heating systems which require 15-40% more energy to run!

Wouldn't I have to excavate all my floors to have underfloor heating installed?

There is no need to excavate your floors to benefit from underfloor heating overlay systems – such as the Uponor Minitec which is only 15mm in depth. They are 'low profile', meaning they can be installed directly on top of existing floors without the need to excavate floors or shave doors.

Is underfloor heating safe for pets?

It's safer for pets than radiators are! Underfloor heating runs at a constant lower temperature whilst still creating the same heat output meaning there is no risk of pets (or children!) overheating. Moreover, as all of the pipe systems run underground, there is no chance of investigative pets, or stumbling toddlers, burning themselves- a common issue with radiators!

I don't want to get a new boiler – will I have to?

Whether you need a new boiler all depends on the extent of the work you're having done. In the majority of cases, you won't need a new boiler. If you're simply replacing radiators with an underfloor system, your current boiler (granting it is fully functioning and serviced regularly) will more than suffice.

Will it be too hot to walk on bare foot?

No – underfloor heating runs at a lower set temperature than radiators whilst creating the same heat output. It'll be a really comfortable temperature for you to walk around barefoot on, but if you need to turn it down you can, really easily, using your controls.

Can I have radiators in some rooms and underfloor heating in others?

Underfloor heating works just as well for single room renovations or extensions. If there is a room in your property that you do not use enough to benefit from underfloor heating, there is no problem with leaving radiators installed there.

So, there you have it -

Everything you need to know about underfloor heating. If you do have any other questions, or you want to talk to someone about having underfloor heating installed in your home, please give our team a call on **01923 927000**. 📞

Alternatively visit the Uponor Smatrix Pulse webpage, just click **here**. 🖱️