

Underfloor heating – the low down



With a trend towards more open designs, with kitchen, dining and living spaces flowing into each other, underfloor heating is well worth considering, as Michelle Taylor, Product Manager for Myson Underfloor Heating explains.

Open living spaces are frequently central to new build projects, but they are also increasingly being created in major refurbishments, by removing walls, extending and blending existing rooms into each other. In more open spaces, you naturally have less wall space. This may make siting radiators a challenge but, of course, this isn't a problem if you opt for underfloor heating like the Floortec system from Myson. Hydronic, or 'wet',

underfloor heating is installed using loops of water-bearing pipe which are laid and fixed in a pattern in rows across the floor. They don't take up any wall space, and easily distribute an even warmth throughout the room.

Naturally, if you can't see the heating system, you don't have to make it match your interior design. This gives you a completely free hand with décor and even allows you to change your living space around from season to season, without needing to factor in where the heating is situated.

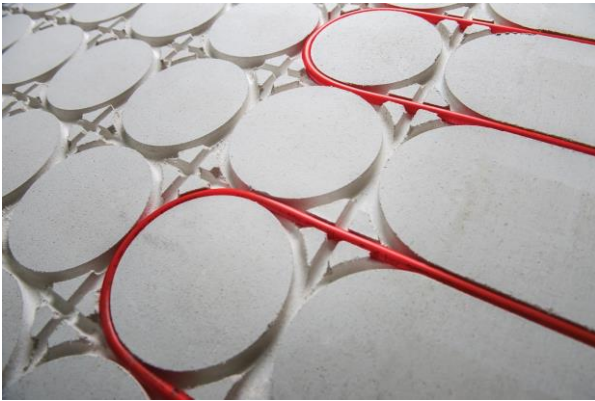
It used to be thought that you could only lay underfloor heating in a new build property, because it had to be laid within a new screeded floor. But while this is still very popular and effective, it is by no means the only method of installation and it is perfectly possible to install underfloor heating in older properties and on upper floors. If you have a joisted floor, aluminium diffuser plates can be

Rettig UK Ltd, Eastern Avenue, Team Valley,
Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE11 0PG, UK
T: 0191 491 4466, F: 0191 491 7437,
uksales@rettigicc.com, www.rettigicc.com

Customer Services:
MYSON: 0845 402 3434
PURMO: 0845 070 1090
VOGEL&NOOT: 0845 017 8672

Division of Rettig (UK) Ltd.
Registered Office: Eastern Avenue, Team Valley, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE11 0PG
Registered in England: 653648

used. These are essentially sheets of aluminium with preformed grooves which carry the hydronic pipework; they are installed on the wooden floor joists, so can be used upstairs as well as at ground floor level.



An innovative new low-profile sheet material called Microboard has made retrofitting underfloor heating simpler. Manufactured with preformed grooves, Microboard is installed straight over the top of existing floors, even solid ones. As it is only 18mm deep, it barely changes the height of the floor and now allows us to install underfloor heating almost anywhere, in

new or established properties alike.

To make life even easier, or if you are just looking to add underfloor heating to a single area, handy underfloor heating room packs have been created which contain all that you need to install heating in a single room. These are available in 20m² and 40m² and are a cost effective way of creating a warm space in your home.

There is also an increase in the use of electric underfloor heating, especially when updating a bathroom or cloakroom in an existing property. Electric underfloor heating comes in the form of a woven mat carrying electrical wires which emit the heat. The mat is carefully placed into shape, laid over the existing floor and fixed in place. The sensors and controls must be installed by an electrician, before a new ceramic or laminate floor covering is laid. You can use electric underfloor heating when the rest of the heating is turned off; a bonus on an unexpected chilly morning.

Underfloor heating doesn't have to be used in isolation; many homeowners and particularly self-builders opt for underfloor heating on the open plan ground floor and radiators upstairs, so that everyone can set their own preferred temperature in each bedroom. Towel warmers are still very

popular for use in bathrooms and cloakrooms. Some 30% of the project enquiries that Myson now receive involve the use of underfloor heating in combination with other technologies such as radiators; and this is growing.

If you do choose to combine underfloor heating with radiators and towel warmers, you should be careful to source all your products from a single manufacturer, and follow the manufacturer's instructions, as this is really the only way to ensure consistently high quality, and to be confident that they will work effectively together.

When you buy everything from Myson, as well as getting a full system guarantee, you can also access our technical support and design assistance, so creating your own underfloor system really ought to be a possible option on almost every project.

www.myson.co.uk

Rettig UK Ltd, Eastern Avenue, Team Valley,
Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE11 0PG, UK
T: 0191 491 4466, F: 0191 491 7437,
uksales@rettigicc.com, www.rettigicc.com

Customer Services:
MYSON: 0845 402 3434
PURMO: 0845 070 1090
VOGEL&NOOT: 0845 017 8672

Division of Rettig (UK) Ltd.
Registered Office: Eastern Avenue, Team Valley, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear, NE11 0PG
Registered in England: 653648