

Help and advice



Karly Taylor on underfloor heating

Under floor heating has become cool again!

ALREADY popular throughout Europe, under floor heating is now becoming more widely used in the UK as more and more homeowners and developers recognise the value it adds to properties. Research into the UK's perceptions of under floor heating, commissioned by Wavin, recently revealed that more than a third of house buyers would include underfloor heating in their top five wish list of luxury items when buying a new home.

Findings also showed that for three in five people, the presence of underfloor heating would make them more likely to consider buying a new property.

Today's requirement for environmentally friendly property development is also having a beneficial effect on the UFH market.

Changes in building regulations have led to specifiers and developers realising that if a home is equipped with environmentally friendly and sustainable solutions such as under floor heating, it can increase the desirability and value of the property.

Adding value to a property is not the only financial benefit of underfloor heating.

Running costs and resulting savings on fuel bills are also big incentives to those considering changing from traditional radiators



to underfloor heating.

The majority of radiators are positioned beneath the window in order to counteract the effect of down-draught from the glass and so radiators lose much more

energy through windows than underfloor heating.

Under floor heating uses water heated to 40-60degC which can be easily generated by solar panels or heat pumps if desired. Radiators,

on the other hand, need water at 60-80degC.

Because under floor heating uses cooler water than radiators, the condensing boiler is operating at its most efficient condensing mode, saving energy and therefore money when it comes to fuel bills – as much as 15%, according to British Gas.

The other cost benefit is that there are no radiators which need cleaning or painting and it can be less expensive to redecorate a room which does not have any obstructions on the wall.

In fact, it is estimated that there is 15% more space in a room using underfloor heating instead of radiators. Comfort is another major factor with any heating installation. Whereas radiators distribute their heat by convection, resulting in a higher temperature at ceiling level, under floor heating works by radiant heating, distributing it evenly through the room with no floor draughts.

Wavin has a comprehensive range of underfloor heating systems designed to make installation simple regardless of the shape or size of a property.

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THE GLUES BROTHERS by Bob Lawton

