

# FLOOR HEATING

## UNDERFLOOR HEATING



### CHOOSING A FLOOR

In general we would always recommend that where underfloor heating is being used, then a Real Wood Engineered floor should be installed in preference to a Solid Wood floor due to the increased stability that a multi-layered construction provides.

Not all timbers react well with underfloor heating so it is important to choose one of the floors that is recommended for use with underfloor heating. Each floor in this catalogue carries a recommendation in the listing next to the product as to its suitability.

### CHECK YOUR SUBFLOOR

You must NEVER install underfloor heating over a concrete subfloor that has a moisture content of more than 75% Relative Humidity (RH). Ideally we would recommend it to be below 70% RH to give a margin for error.

In the case of timber subfloors, it is important that the moisture content does not exceed 11% Wood Moisture Equivalent (WME). Make sure your installer has checked these readings before proceeding.

If the measurements exceed the above guidelines, then one of the Woodpecker damp proof preparation products must be used prior to installation of the heating system.

### PICK YOUR SYSTEM

There are two main types of system available with many variations from different manufacturers, but essentially they will either be water heated or electrically heated systems.

In general, water heated systems are normally found in new build or renovation projects, while electrically heated systems are generally found in situations where installation is required to be relatively quick and easy.

Whichever system you choose, the maximum water or electrical element temperature should not be greater than 50°C and the temperature below the floor must never exceed 27°C.

### TEST YOUR HEATING

Prior to fitting your floor, the underfloor heating should, in the case of a water heated system, be fully pressurised, tested for leaks and left to run usually for a fortnight, but certainly until all the moisture in the screed or timber subfloor has been driven off.

Plaster should be dry and all the wet trades finished in the rooms to which the flooring is to be fitted. The atmospheric Relative Humidity within the room should read between 40% and 60%.

### FITTING YOUR FLOOR

Your underfloor system should be turned off for at least 48 hours prior to fitting the floor. Only electrical heating or central heating should be used during installation.

Engineered tongue and groove floors (subject to suitability of species) should always be fully adhered to the subfloor using the Woodpecker MS Parquet (Flexible) Adhesive.

An Engineered floor with a glueless locking joint can, in most cases, be floated over underfloor heating subject to suitability of species. Remember to pick an underlay that is suitable for use with underfloor heating.

If only part of the subfloor has underfloor heating, the new flooring must not be laid continuously but separated by dilation joints because flooring installed over underfloor heating is likely to expand and contract more than flooring that is not.



CONCRETE SCREED

WOODPECKER DAMP PROOF MEMBRANE

WOODPECKER UNDERMATE



**1°C per day**

**AFTERCARE**

After fitting, the floor should be left for 2-3 days to fully acclimatise to its new surroundings and if relevant for any adhesive to fully cure before the heating is switched on.

When ready, the heating should be raised gently by 1°C per day from the prevailing ambient temperature. It must NOT be turned on full straight away.

Raising and lowering the temperature of your heating too quickly can result in dimensional changes to the timber which will cause the floor to shrink and crack.

As a general rule, this method of gradually increasing and decreasing temperatures should be followed in the day-to-day running of your system. Ideally, underfloor heating should be left running from the thermostat all the time and only raised or lowered by 1°C per day to accommodate the different seasons.

**MORE INFO**

These guidelines are not exhaustive and are provided to give a general understanding of how the systems work. They do not replace the need to follow the recommended fitting procedures of each individual manufacturer.