

UNDERFLOOR HEATING - YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Underfloor heating - your questions answered

If you haven't had underfloor heating before, you may find that you have some questions about your new system over the coming weeks or months.

This guide aims to answer those questions for you, but if you find you still need more information, call the Screed It team on 0121 241 6691.



Contact us for your **FREE** Quote

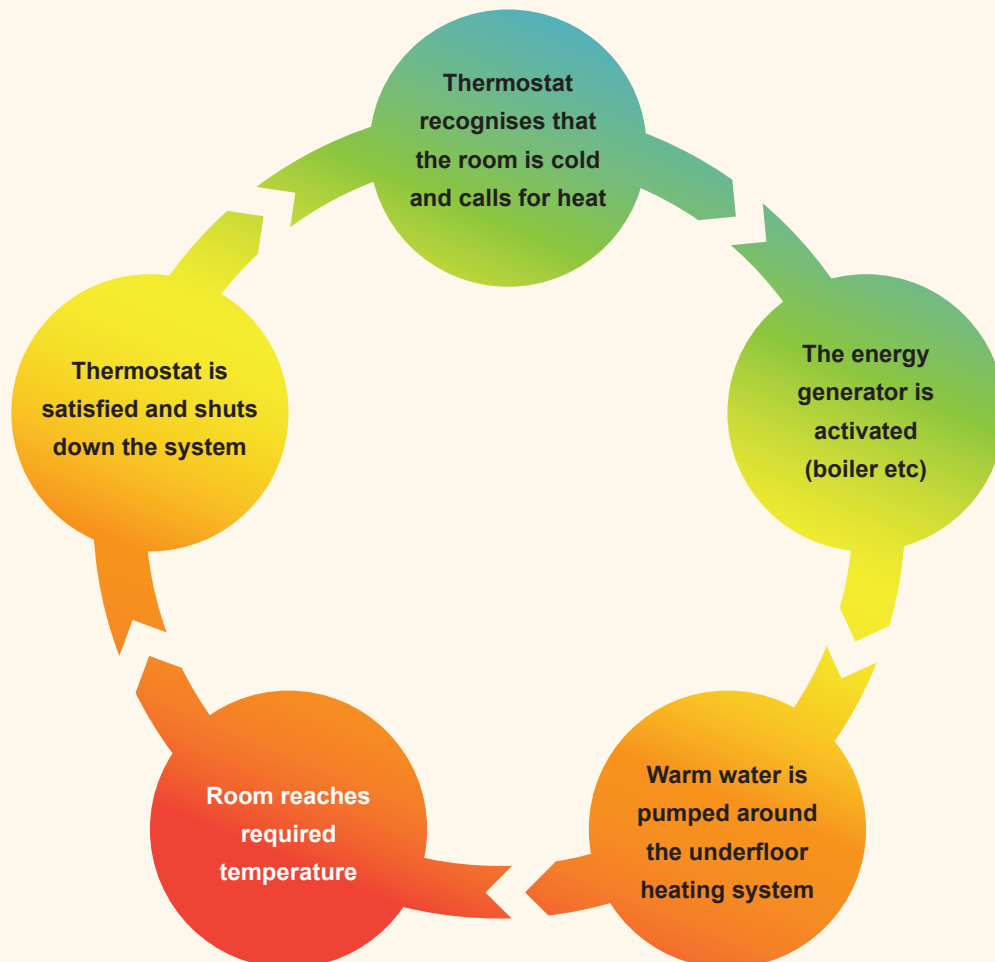
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How does underfloor heating work?

There are three main sections to any heating system:

- The energy generator, which is your boiler, your heat pump or your biomass burner
- Your heat emitter, which is your radiator or your underfloor heating
- The controls, which includes thermostats, wiring centres and timing clocks

Here's a simple flow diagram to demonstrate how your new underfloor heating system works:



As you can see from this flow chart underfloor heating (when fitted with thermostatic controls) is a carefully controlled system which will respond to the heat demand within each room. This means maximum energy efficiency, increased cost savings and ultimate room comfort.

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Why doesn't my underfloor heating feel hot

If this is the first time you've had underfloor heating, you may wonder why your floor doesn't feel hot. Don't panic, your floor won't feel anywhere near as hot as traditional radiator but that doesn't mean it isn't heating your room. Underfloor heating operates at a lower water temperature than conventional systems, but because it uses the entire floor area to heat the room rather than just a small area on the wall, it can do the same job with less heat – saving you money!

You will also notice that the heat you feel is more radiant compared to a radiator, which most people find more pleasant. It can take a while to get used to the difference, so don't worry if things feel a little strange at first. As a general rule of thumb, your heated floor shouldn't feel hot - it should just not feel cold.

Why has the pressure in my system dropped?

Don't worry, most systems lose pressure over time and it's easy to rectify it yourself by topping up the pressure from the mains supply to the boiler. This should improve the pressure of the whole system.

If you think there is an issue with the manifold, you'll need to isolate it by turning the two red handles (situated one on each of the isolation valves). Before you do this, note the pressure and then leave it for one hour.

When you return, you may see that the pressure has dropped slightly, but providing it hasn't dropped to zero then you know the system is holding pressure.

What sort of maintenance does my new underfloor heating need?








Underfloor heating systems are durable and require very little active maintenance. That said, there are a few things you can do once a year to make sure everything is working as it should:

- 1) Check the compression fittings are tight. This is the 27mm silver nut between the manifold and the plastic underfloor heating pipe. When it comes to checking the fitting on the return manifold, use an adjustable wrench to stop it from moving.
- 2) Check the pressure of the system on your boiler (or other heat source) to ensure that it is between 1.0 and 2.0 bar.
- 3) During your annual boiler (or heat source) service, make sure they check the water quality within the heating system. This may require flushing out the system, and replacing the water and additives.
- 4) Check the flow rate setting for each piping loop on the manifold.

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What can I do if I think there's a problem?

Before you pay an expensive call out fee, there are a number of things you can check yourself to either rectify the issue or identify the problem. Here's our quick list of trouble shooting checks:

-  Is the system switched on and in occupied mode?
-  Is the timer clock set correctly?
-  Is the thermostat switched on and calling for heat? Turn the dial up and down to hear the click as it activates the boiler
-  Is the actuator rising up? You should be able to see a black tab if it's fully operational
-  Is the correct thermostat connected to the right actuator? Activate each thermostat and check which actuator rises – remember it takes several minutes for the actuator to rise
-  Is there hot water flow to the manifold and is it being passed through the manifold? Check the temperature gauge on the manifold and that both manifolds feel warm/hot, then make sure both isolation handles are open (pointing in line with the pipes)
-  Is the pump running? Feel for a slight vibration which will increase if you change the speed of the pump

Remember:

Never attempt to test or fix electrical wiring and components – always hire a qualified and competent electrician.