

## Underfloor Heating FAQs

Underfloor heating is one of the most efficient and comfortable ways to heat a home. Below you'll find answers to the most frequently asked questions from homeowners considering electric or water-based systems.

### **Can underfloor heating be installed in any home?**

Yes. Modern underfloor heating systems can be installed in almost any property, including both new builds and existing homes. Low-profile systems are designed specifically for retrofit projects, allowing installation with minimal disruption and only a small increase in floor height.

### **What types of underfloor heating systems are available?**

There are two main types of underfloor heating systems: electric and water-based. Electric systems use heating mats or cables that are installed beneath the floor surface and connected to a thermostat. Water systems, also known as hydronic systems, circulate warm water through flexible pipes connected to a central manifold and heat source such as a boiler or heat pump.

### **Which type of flooring is best for underfloor heating?**

Most floor finishes can be used with underfloor heating, but materials with high thermal conductivity work best. Tile, stone, and engineered wood allow heat to transfer quickly and evenly across the floor. Carpet and vinyl can also be used, provided the combined tog value is within the recommended limits for your system.

### **Is underfloor heating more efficient than radiators?**

Underfloor heating is generally more efficient than traditional radiators because it operates at lower water temperatures while maintaining the same comfort levels. Heat is evenly distributed across the entire floor area, reducing cold spots and improving overall energy performance. When paired with a modern condensing boiler or renewable heat pump, efficiency is maximised.

### **How long does it take for underfloor heating to warm up?**

Warm-up time depends on the system type, insulation, and floor

covering. Electric systems tend to heat up faster, often within 30 to 60 minutes. Water-based systems take slightly longer but provide a more consistent and lasting warmth. Proper insulation beneath the floor significantly reduces heat-up times.

### **Can underfloor heating be used as the main heating source?**

Yes, in most modern, well-insulated homes, underfloor heating can serve as the primary heating source. In older properties or rooms with high heat loss, it can be supplemented with secondary heating for optimal comfort.

### **Does underfloor heating require maintenance?**

Electric underfloor heating requires very little maintenance once installed, as there are no moving parts. Water-based systems are also low-maintenance but should be inspected occasionally to ensure that the manifold, valves, and controls are functioning correctly. Annual servicing by a heating engineer is recommended for water systems.

### **How much does underfloor heating cost?**

The cost of underfloor heating varies depending on the size of the area and the type of system. Electric systems generally have lower installation costs but can be more expensive to run. Water-based systems cost more to install but offer lower long-term running costs, especially when used with energy-efficient heat pumps.

### **Is underfloor heating compatible with renewable energy systems?**

Yes. Water-based underfloor heating works particularly well with renewable systems such as air source and ground source heat pumps. Both operate efficiently at low temperatures, making them an ideal combination for sustainable heating.

### **Can underfloor heating be installed under existing floors?**

Yes. Low-profile systems allow installation over existing floors with minimal height build-up. Overlay panels or boards can be fitted directly on top of the current surface, making them ideal for renovation projects where removing the floor is not practical.

### **How long does underfloor heating last?**

When correctly installed, underfloor heating systems are extremely durable and can last for decades. Electric heating cables and mats often come with warranties of 20 years or more, while water-based pipework can last over 50 years if properly maintained.

### **Is underfloor heating safe?**

Underfloor heating is very safe. Both electric and water-based systems operate at low temperatures and are installed beneath the floor surface, eliminating the risk of burns or exposed hot surfaces. All electrical connections must be completed by a qualified professional to meet UK safety standards.

Underfloor heating provides an efficient, comfortable, and long-lasting solution for homes of all types. To learn more or find the perfect system for your property, visit our [Electric Underfloor Heating](#) and [Water Underfloor Heating](#) pages for detailed product information or call us on 01625 466258 to speak to a member of our team.