



Factsheet: Floor finishes

Timber

Solid Timber can be used with underfloor heating if certain guidelines are followed. The boards are generally screwed or glued to battens but can also be attached to a screeded floor by using a flexible adhesive like Sikabond. It is important that the moisture content of your timber does not exceed 8% and should be kiln dried if required.

The timber should be loose laid and acclimatised whilst the underfloor heating is running at operating temperature, prior to the timber being finally installed. It is recommended to check the maximum operating temperature of the timber to ensure that if required the underfloor heating can be limited through the use of a floor sensor.

The maximum thickness of the total timber floor must not exceed 34mm. The thickness of the timber panel will directly impact on the responsiveness and output of the underfloor heating. If a Heat pump is the single heat source for the underfloor heating we would recommend this not to exceed a thickness of 22mm.

Laminate Flooring

Laminate floors are a very popular floor finish with many projects. They are incredibly easy to lay and generally a cost effective way of achieving a similar look of more expensive timbers and ceramics. Laminate floors are also great product to use with underfloor heating as they allow higher outputs through the floor than natural timbers.

Tiled/Stone/Slate Floors

Possibly the best floor finish for use as the underfloor heating will gently warm the surface. Tiles/Stone/Slate are low in height and great at conductivity. Underfloor Heating Now recommends this floor finish to achieve optimum results from your system. We would advise a small expansion gap is left around the perimeter of the room, filled with a flexible sealant.

Carpets

Carpets can be used with underfloor heating by following a few simple guidelines. Look for products that do not exceed a tog value of 2.5 including the underlay. Your manufacturer should have the information to hand to help you with your choice.

If a Heat pump is the single heat source for the underfloor heating we would recommend this not to exceed a tog value of 1.5 tog. All floor coverings should be checked with the manufacturer to verify their maximum operating temperature. If there are any doubts with regard to the suitability of your proposed floor coverings and flow temperatures please contact us.



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