

Radiant Floor Heating: The Ultimate in Hydronic Heating Comfort

(MS) — Every morning, people across America wince as they step out of their nice, hot showers onto a shockingly cold bathroom floor. But an increasing number of people are no longer enduring the discomfort of a chilly floor. In fact, they are smiling as they step out of their showers onto a soothing, warm bathroom floor. These smart homeowners have radiant floor heating.

The concept of providing warmth from floors is not new; the ancient Romans used it, and homeowners throughout the Far East and Europe have been using it for decades. And now, thousands of American homeowners are enjoying the comfort and high efficiency of radiant heating.

Radiant heating is a form of hydronic (hot water) heating that is provided by a centrally located boiler. With radiant heating, warm water from the boiler is circulated through extremely durable plastic tubing that is installed in floors, walls, or ceilings. Bathroom and kitchen floors that are radiant-heated are a pleasure to walk on, even on the coldest days and nights. Radiant heating provides the ultimate in heating comfort and efficiency because it warms the objects in the room, not the room air. A hydronic heating system delivers gentle, silent heat, with



Radiant heating provides a nice, warm bathroom floor to step onto after a shower.

no hot or cold spots in the home. Because environmentally clean radiant heat does not circulate air, it does not scatter dust, mites, or other allergenic materials throughout the house.

In addition, radiant heating, like all hydronic heating systems, is extremely efficient. Radiant heating is delivered

through a sealed system, so heat loss is minimal. It also enables each room to have its own energy efficient heating zone with its custom heating controls. This allows the homeowner to save money by not heating the rooms that are not usually occupied.

Hydronic heating applications are not limited to room heating. Other hydronic applications include domestic hot water heating, swimming pool and whirlpool heating, snow and ice melting for sidewalks and driveways, and bathroom towel rack warming. Hydronic heating is ideal for a newly constructed home or for an addition to an existing home. Air conditioning may also be added to hydronically heated homes as a separate system.

Homeowners who are interested in having a warm floor to step onto after a shower can ask their home-heating contractor for all the facts about radiant heating — one of the country's fastest-growing opportunities for home comfort in any home.

For more information on radiant heating or other forms of hydronic heating systems and equipment, visit www.myhomeheating.com, write to the Hydronics Industry Alliance, 2107 Wilson Blvd., Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22201, or e-mail to myhomeheating@gamanet.org.

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