

Underfloor heating (Hot Water)

The system selected must be suitable for use with stone flooring. It should be laid in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions, with the pipes securely fixed.

In all cases, once the levelling screeds are cured and dried (refer to 4.1.7 & 4.1.8 of Stone Federation's Code of Practice for the Design and Installation of Internal Flooring) they should be heated at 5°C per day to operating temperature. The operating temperature should then be maintained for 2-3 days before cooling down to room temperature. The temperature should be maintained at 15°C while installing the flooring. This is to ensure any movement in the screed has taken place prior to the installation of the stone.

Once the floor is laid the heating should be allowed to cool completely and not run up for at least 10 days to allow the bedding to cure /dry thoroughly.

Where it is not possible to operate the heating prior to installation of the natural stone flooring only an unbounded method of bedding should be used.

Piped hot water systems using plastic or copper pipes are not suitable for use with a timber floor construction as they preclude the installation of noggings at 300mm centres required for this type of construction.

Underfloor heating (Electric)

Electrical under floor elements or boards are much less tricky. The sub floor itself is not affected by the heating mat, but please give the adhesive plenty of time to cure before switching on the mat. NB turning on the mat to make the adhesive set more quickly or moisture to leave the tiles will lead to disaster ! The adhesive will either not set, or crumbles and shrinks. A very expensive mistake, but happens all too often.