

Underfloor heating requirements for Karelia timber floors in New Zealand

Karelia timber floors are suitable for underfloor heating systems.

To avoid any potential failures with your Karelia timber floor you must follow the following procedures:

1. Make sure that any manual control units are enclosed and positioned so that no unauthorized persons have access to them.
2. If you are using a multiple thermostat underfloor heating system assure that ALL thermostats show ALWAYS exactly the same temperature.
3. Heating temperatures must be adjusted **GRADUALLY** as any extreme temperature change can damage the floor. (Each time the heating is turned on it must be increased gradually; this applies the same when decreasing temperature of the system):

Prior to installation:

If the underfloor heating has been running prior to installation (e.g. to dry out the concrete slab), make sure it is turned off at least 48 hours prior to installation.

Turning on/off the underfloor heating over winter:

- Turn the underfloor heating on at 15° Celsius
 - Leave the underfloor heating running for 48 to 72 hours at 15°
 - Thereafter increase the thermostat by 1 degree every 24 hours.
After +/- 1 week you should be at a comfortable living environment (20-21° Celsius)
 - Once reached, leave thermostat at that temperature until underfloor heating is no longer required
 - Then decrease the thermostat the same way and eventually turn off the underfloor heating
4. Should you be considering a water controlled system, it is important that the unit is controlled by the temperature of the floor, NOT the temperature of the water in the system.
 5. From the time of installation the slab temperature (**not** room or timber floor temperature) must not exceed 27 degrees °C.
Ensure the thermostat is fitted with a maximum temperature of 27 degrees °C.
 6. We do not recommend installing Beech, Maple and Jatoba on the under floor heating systems due to species natural, higher than average, shrinkage.
 7. Experience has shown that misuse of temperature controls will prove too much for any wooden floor and could eventually lead to floor failure.