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What is radiator heating?

This is a system of heating used throughout Europe and consists of a radiator panel which is supplied with hot water from a heat source. The heat from the radiator is transmitted into the room by radiation and convection. Every room has heat loss which can be through windows, doors, wall construction etc. the principle function of a radiator panel is to replace that heat loss by maintaining the room at the desired temperature.

Can I size the radiators myself?

There are a number of websites that offer a quick solution to radiator sizing but we have found that these are too generic. When we calculate a heat loss for a room we will take into account the wall and floor construction, window size and type and room size amongst other things, we then take this information and produce an accurate heat loss calculation for that room.

Do I have to have the plain panelled radiators?

No, whilst these are the most popular there are hundreds of designer radiators along with the period traditional cast iron radiators, visit the websites in the downloads section to sell available styles.

What can I use as a heat source?

The following heat sources work with radiators: Natural Gas/LPG boiler Combustion stove

What about a heat pump?

Radiators require a minimum of 70 degree water to enter the radiator to deliver the kilowatt output required to compensate for the heat loss in the room, an air or ground sourced heat pump can only deliver 40 degree water.

Can I combine underfloor heating with radiators?

Yes, you can and providing it is designed correctly, the two systems can operate at the different required input temperatures – radiators 70 degrees, underfloor 40 degrees.

Do I have to have the system installed while building?

This is the ideal time, but this type of system can also be retro fitted into any building.

Is there a specific wall that the radiator has to go on i.e. an internal wall to prevent cooling on an outside wall?

The radiator panel can be sited on any wall within the room. Traditionally they were installed under windows in Europe for two reasons:

- 1. All glazing was single glazed and the heat rising warmed the natural draughts coming through the window frame so prevented cold draughts.
- 2. Beneath a window is a section of wall that normally doesn't occupy a piece of furniture therefore you are not using valuable wall space for furniture etc.

Due to better insulation of houses a radiator can be sited on any wall nowadays.