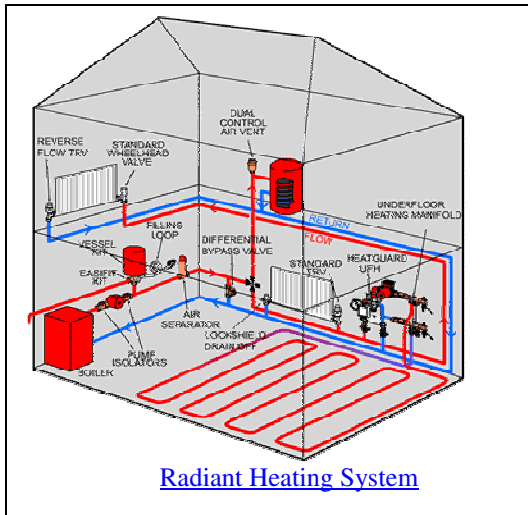


Home Comfort - Is Hot Water Heat Superior to Forced Air?

by David Brent

Ask anyone who has ever lived with Hot Water Radiant Heating (Floor Heat or Radiators) if they love their heating system and the answer is a resounding yes, and they add that they would never go back to forced air heating. Hot water heat is very common in the Midwest and East, but not completely unknown here in the Northwest.



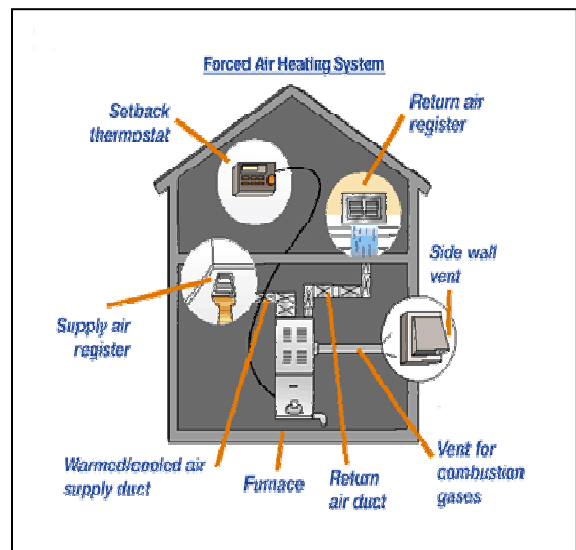
In the last 10 years the number of Radiant Heating System installations in Oregon and Washington has doubled or tripled each year. The primary reason for this rapidly expanding market is Comfort. Radiant Floor Heating provides warmth from the floor up, warming objects and people first. Forced Air Heating provides heat from the top down; so that the floor is the coldest part of a room....which is great for keeping spiders and flies comfortable at the ceiling level. Have you ever noticed how many spider webs there are in the corners near the ceiling?

By the way, since Radiant Heating delivers heat to the human body so much more efficiently than forced air heating, it also uses much less energy. Savings run 20-40% over forced air heating when the heating appliances (furnace vs boiler) are rated at the same efficiency. A 90% efficient Boiler with Radiant Heating will provide savings of 20-40% over a 90% efficient Furnace with Forced Air Heating.

Another great benefit of Radiant Heating is 'no blowing air', which means no cold drafts or the recirculation of dust. Radiant Heating is very clean! Not so forced air heating.

Radiant Heating components have a life span of 2 to 3 times that of forced air components as well. A typical boiler will last 30-40 years; furnaces 12-20 years. Big difference!

Radiant Heating is Superior to Forced Air Heating if your criteria are Comfort, Efficiency, Good Health, and Sustainability!



David Brent is the owner of The Heating Specialist Inc., and a graduate Engineer from Oregon State University with over 30 years of experience in Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilating, Hydronics, and Plumbing.