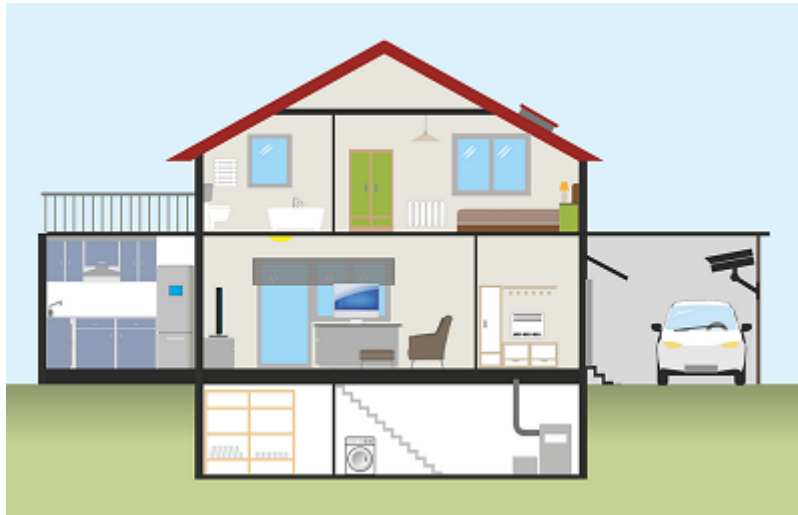


# Floor Covering Media

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## A welcome relief from freezing floors



Find morning routines a chilling experience? Does it have to be this way? No. There are ways to contend with the cold. For example, radiant heating systems provide a welcome relief from freezing floors, especially during those early hours. This added warmth has an added value during cooler months. Whether in the market for an energy efficient home or planning a remodel for one of your rooms, radiant floor heating or hydronic heating may actually be a worthy investment.

How it works: The heat is typically transferred through the floors. The heating system's location is in one of two places: The electrical heating systems are placed on top of the underlayment; whereas the Hydronic heating systems are placed under the subfloor. During the installation, there is a precise pattern for the purpose of ensures that every inch and corner has an even heat distribution. The temperature can then be controlled via a programmable thermostat on the wall.



The most common installations are: bathrooms, mudrooms and basements. Tile or concrete are often the natural choice. These systems remove one of the more common impediments associated with installing cool-to-the-touch, hard surfaces. Perhaps this is one reason people are warming up to the idea of adding heat in rooms; where people walk with bare feet. Tile and concrete, which hold heat and withstand higher temperatures, make them the perfect match for radiant heating; even after the system is powered off. Space heaters likely lose heat faster and

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probably use more energy to heat rooms.

Electric floor heating is reasonably energy-efficient and near negligible for people already powering their home with solar. This method is quite common and affordable for small spaces or single-rooms, great for remodels because they are thin. This adds height to a floor. Cables are snaked across the floor in a patterned channel or using pre-manufactured mats. This depends on the customization required. Tile installers or flooring specialists should be able to install these systems. However, plan for the additional cost of a certified electrician. You may need one hook up the system to the power supply.

Adding one to a small bathroom starts at \$1,500, a minor investment considering the overall cost of a bathroom remodel.

Hydronic systems are recommended for larger applications. While these systems could -initially- cost well over \$50,000, they are energy-efficient over their lifetime. These frequently installed during initial construction or on major remodels. Reason being: these heating systems are installed deeper in the floor. This is likely to require more height for the tubing.



A preference but worthy indulgence for those of means. There could be health benefits to avoiding a chill in the morning.



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