

July 2014

IN THE LOOP

Nebraska & Iowa Visits

The week of July 14, Michael visited Infloor customers and distributors in Nebraska and Iowa. For half of the week, he traveled around Iowa with Jeremy Lang of Enertech Global. "It was great traveling with Jeremy and getting to meet his customers who are doing a lot of radiant heating," Michael shared. One of their stops included Ken's Electric in Oelwein, IA, who has a showroom with a working geothermal system that heats their shop during the winter using Infloor Heating Systems radiant heating powered by geothermal.

ACHR News Interview

Michael recently talked with Matt Bishop of ACHR News about our company, radiant heating, industry trends, and some things contracts should know. It was recorded as a podcast interview, which is available online for you to listen to. Check it out, and let us know what you think. Listen at www.achrnews.com/media/podcasts/2904 and select the "Michael Willburn" podcast. The NEWS' podcast channel provides you with industry news and engaging interviews that keep you up-to-date, informed, and entertained. Each episode features movers and shakers of the industry interviewed by editors of The NEWS staff.

Join the conversation  

In The Loop is a publication for customers, distributors, contractors, and friends of Infloor Heating Systems; a division of Infloor Sales & Service, Buena Vista, CO. www.infloor.com.

Radiant Classic Homes Maintain Charm

The details, features, and characteristics of older homes makes them desirable to many people. The building designs are unique and one-of-a-kind, and of course, were built before many of the technology we use today. However, modernizing the heating system in these classic homes, while maintaining their allure, is easier than you may think.

Infloor's Radiant Trak underfloor hydronic radiant heating is a perfect solution for heating older homes. There is no need for duct work, is powered by a gas boiler, and

is easily installed under the floor with our pre-drilled plates and C-Channel construction enabling tubing to be simply "snapped" into place. Radiant Trak is an alternative installation method to slab, gypcrete, Infloorboard, or Warmboard, and is most commonly found in retrofit applications.

Infloor Radiant Trak is the ultimate underfloor heating method due to the heat transfer plates and easy installation. The high quality extruded aluminum is installed between the joist spaces on the underside

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P&D's Largest Snow Melt Project

P&D Mechanical recently installed their largest snow melt system to date. St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Minneapolis, MN are ensuring their guests will always arrive to a snow and ice free parking lot with their new 5,500 sq. ft. Infloor Heating Systems Snow & Ice Melt system, covering the entire lot. P&D Mechanical, also of Minneapolis, installed the system the week of July 14, and received the parts from Walters-Climate, out of New Hope, MN.

Now's the time to be thinking about winter and installing snow and ice melt systems. Talk to your customers about the many benefits of these systems, which can be installed in concrete, asphalt, and under paver applications. Once it's installed, you'll never have to shovel snow or worry about an icy surface again.



Radiant Classic Homes Maintain Charm Continued

of the subfloor, providing heat transfer between the plates and the subfloor, warming the entire plate and floor. Radiant Trak is inexpensive to install and can be utilized for floor warming or for primary space heating and is versatile enough to be used in most applications.

Understanding basic heat transfer

Radiant Trak works by way of conduction, which is the transfer of heat between substances that are in direct contact with each other. The better the conductor, the more rapidly the heat will transfer. Metals are great heat conductors, while wood, air, and styrofoam are poor conductors (insulators).

"Conduction heat transfer requires ample contact area between the tubing and the other materials in the floor," said John Siegenthaler in his article titled Plateless in Radiantville. He believes, as we do, that the use of plates in an underfloor radiant heating system is very important, and far superior to a staple-up installation. "There's nothing magical about PEX, PEX-AL-PEX, EPDM, or copper tubing that allows any of them to sidestep basic physics," he wrote.

"Radiant Trak is a great choice for retrofitting older homes," shared Michael Willburn, President of Infloor Heating Systems. "It is a superior product that is easy to install. The plates come with pre-drilled holes, so the contractor just has to use short screws to attach them to the subfloor, then snap the tubing in place."

"The use of heat transfer plates is a must in an underfloor application," said Michael. "The plates spread the heat more evenly across a larger surface area, requiring a lower water temperature to achieve desired results," he said.

Simply stapling tubing to the subfloor presents many potential problems, including puncturing the tube during installation, staples not allowing for tube expansion, spotted heating areas due to poor heat conduction, creating a loud ticking noise, and is more labor intensive to install.

John wrote in his article, "Sure, plateless systems cost less than plated systems. Likewise, roll roofing costs less than 30-year warranted shingles, and a light bulb screwed into a porcelain base costs less than a chandelier."

Proper installation

When done correctly, Radiant Trak underfloor radiant heating provides tremendous satisfaction to those who live with it, as well as those who install it. The heat transfer plates are 4' L x 4" W and can be placed 1-2" apart. They come with pre-drilled holes and are attached to the subfloor with short screws, and can



Get ultimate heat transfer with Radiant Trak's high-quality aluminum pre-drilled plates.

be cut down to size if needed. (We recommend filing the inside edge of any cut plates so there are no sharp edges.) Tubing is placed 8" on center and easily snaps into the C-Channel on the plate. Radiant Trak has the best results with hardwood and tile flooring.

As with any radiant heating system, proper insulation is recommended. We suggest using an insulation rated at R-13 or higher, placed directly against the tubing. There is no need for a 2" air gap or foil-faced insulation.

We can also zone Radiant Trak systems, for ultimate control and comfort. Zoning allows you to easily control the temperature in different rooms (or zones), applying more heat in living spaces and less in unused rooms, further maximizing energy savings.

Let Infloor design your next project

We can help you design your next Radiant Trak installation, or any radiant heating application you may have. Using our LOOPCAD design software, we can provide you a detailed project design and help guide you through the installation process if you'd like. We are here to help you with all your radiant heating needs and questions. Feel free to contact us for answers to your questions, parts, service, and support.

"The radiant industry is about selling comfort, quality, and efficiency," John wrote. "Remember that you're not just deciding where to buy tubing, you're selecting a business partner that should have the same goal of supplying your customer with a quality heating system."