

Stumbling upon a bottle of effervescent water, especially if you're trekking through the Sahara or Australian outback is normally seen as a blessed relief. Sipped slowly, it will quench a tinder dry throat and cool the body's core. It also helps to calm temperaments should emotions be running high.

This, we're sad to say, won't ring true if you're tip-toeing over a recently laid Terrazzo floor which is becoming colder by the day. And the reason for the chilly inconvenience is that the plastic heating pipes buried beneath the floor are gulping in air and losing heat. Nope, sadly no amount of H₂O will provide relief to this scenario, in fact it'll only add to the ever-growing honest-to-God frustration.

In today's regulated world, plastic heating pipes need only be 90% ingress-proof under current British standards. In other words, the powers-that-be allow heating companies to install sub-standard pipes in your home without a second thought for health and safety. The majority of those pipes end up connected to wall-mounted radiators and hidden behind synthetic skirting boards or under wooden floors. Some, though, are buried deep below two-and-a-half inches of concrete and act as the major component of an integrated underfloor heating system. And in this instance, it's your very own expensive underfloor heating system.

They are made on the cheap and break down relatively quickly, especially if scolding hot water is continually pumped through them. Lime in the cement also has a major part to play in the degradation process: it slowly munches away at the plastic and destroys the molecular structure in roughly ten to fifteen years. Because the pipes are under enormous pressure, the tendency is for the plastic to start absorbing air, which, of course, never gets as hot as water; resulting in effervescence in the pipes. And the more air that enters the pipes, the colder your home becomes.

The temperature will keep on reducing in proportion to the amount of air in the system until, eventually, you're forced to walk around your home in thermals and an overcoat, whilst shelving out the highest tariff to whichever energy company you unwittingly allowed into your life.

Purging the air out of the system on a regular basis with one of those hexagonal key thingies

Would it surprise you to know that not all aerated water comes in bottles?

that all plumbers carry is the only option. So overnight, whether it was your intention or not, you've joined the ranks of the heating fraternity. Needless to say, (and here comes the rub) had you paid slightly more you wouldn't be in this

predicament. 15% more would have bought you plastic pipes with a metal core. And it's the core that is so very important to the pipe's longevity, the warmth of your home and the tolerance of your family.

Heating pipes with a metal core last roughly three times as long as plastic pipes. They experience little or no expansion or severe contraction, and they can be bent to fit around corners or joists without springing out of shape when clipped to the insulating membrane. More importantly, when installed under a floor they provide an even distribution of radiant heat from the ground upwards, as opposed to clunky radiators which tend to heat a tiny corner of the room.

Underfloor Heating Now has been an advocate of metal core heating pipes since it first opened its doors seven years ago. The prolonged life span of a heating system is paramount to our reputation, but so too is showing our customers a 15% to 40% saving over traditional heating methods.

Call us today for a bubbly conversation or pop into our showroom so we can show you working examples of underfloor heating systems, boilers and offices devoid of plastic pipes and hot air. But brimming with a surprising amount of professionalism that is sadly lacking in this particular industry.