

# Constant Comfort

A Tradition of Service Since 1912



# news

SUMMER 2000



Terry Spence

## Employee Profile

### Terry Spence...

If you have had us do an installation in the last couple of years, you probably saw Terry Spence who, in addition to being a serviceman, also gets involved in the installation of boilers, water heaters and air conditioning.

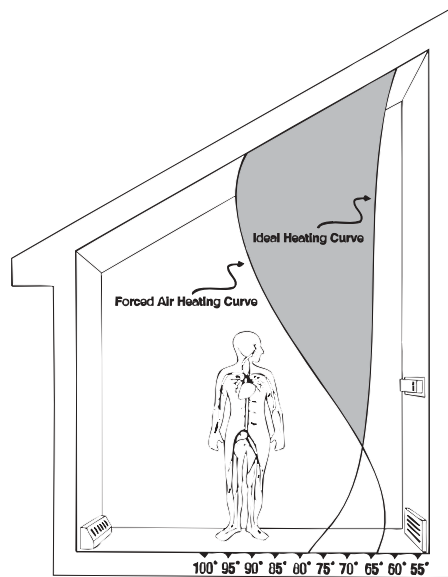
As his wife once told us, Terry even lines up the screws on the electrical wall plates; that's the type of person we want to do your installations. In his off time, Terry, after he finishes projects for his family, likes to go fishing. Terry lives in the greater Boston area with his wife, Karen, and his two daughters, Brittany, 7, and Kayla, 9.

**North Shore Fuel  
Myers Brothers Oil**

100 V.F.W. Parkway  
Revere, MA 02151

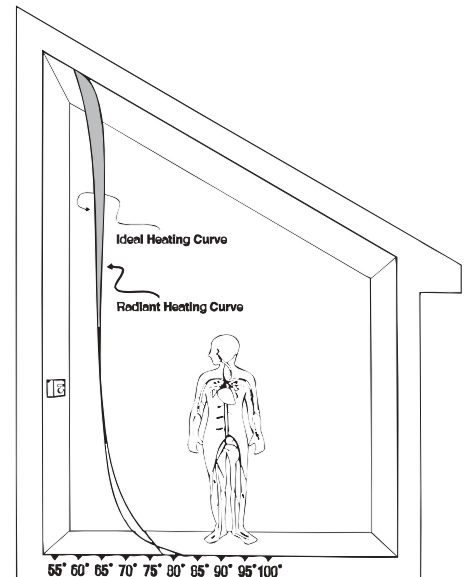
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#### Ideal Heating Curve

For optimum heat distribution, temperature should be relatively constant from floor-level to just about the height of a normal adult.



#### Radiant Floor Heating

By delivering heat almost precisely according to the Ideal Heating Curve, a radiant floor heating system assures all of the heat produced contributes to the comfort of the room's occupants. People literally feel more comfortable.

#### Forced Air Heating

Because hot air rises, more heat must be forced into the room to maintain a comfortable temperature at floor level. The heat represented by the shaded area at right is excess—wasted energy.

## Warm Floors = Comfort

What could be more comfortable than stepping out of bed onto a warm comfortable radiant heated floor? Radiant heat is the oldest and most comfortable form of heat known to man. Cavemen would heat rocks in a fire and drag them into their caves to radiate heat all night. In the 1950s, William Levitt built thousands of homes heated with underfloor radiant heat.

Radiant heat was refined in Europe during the 1970s using crosslinked polyethylene tubing (PEX) and is now the most popular way to heat homes and commercial buildings. In fact, today more than 65% of all new construction in Europe is heated using underfloor radiant heat. All of those sophisticated Europeans couldn't be wrong! It is now becoming well known in this country, and has been featured prominently on the PBS television series *This Old House*.

#### Why is radiant heat rapidly becoming so popular?

1) **Comfort** - Radiant heat is the most comfortable form of heat since, like the rays of the sun, it heats objects rather than air. The heat radiates to your body and you feel warm and comfortable. Unlike conventional heat, floors, rather than ceilings, are the warmest part of the room, so that you have warm feet and a cool head.

2) **Energy Savings** - Because it is hydronic and utilizes low temperature water (90°-130°F), radiant heat is more efficient and will save 20-40% of the cost of heating with

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## Air Conditioning An Older Home...

*About a year ago, we were asked by Dr. & Mrs. V. to air condition their home, a large Tudor style house. Our design, which used two units—one for the first floor and one for the second—worked so well that Mrs. V. said she felt that she was on vacation the whole summer. I showed my faith in our work by selecting Dr. V. to be my physician when my doctor retired. I'd guess I better make sure that he and his family stay "cool."*

## Can You Really Afford The Bargain Heating Job?

In viewing the heating sites on the Internet, we often notice people asking about the quality of different brands of equipment. The answer most often given them is that the brand of equipment is far less important than the person or company doing the installation. A good installation will have both the necessary new parts and the other parts that add value and usefulness to your home. These include valves, filters, anti-scald tempering valves, outside air intake boxes (sound reducers) and other things too numerous to mention here.

While a bargain makes sense where it may go out of style, like clothing, it doesn't make a lot of sense with a system that should keep you in comfort with few problems for many years. Remember, a good chef can and will make a good meal from almost any fresh ingredients and a bad cook will ruin the best food.

## Warm Floors = Comfort

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conventional methods. In addition, because it warms your body rather than the air, you feel comfortable at a lower temperature and you can turn your thermostat down to 65°F.

3) **Quiet and Clean Operation** - Radiant heat systems operate without any noise or sound. In addition, there are no drafts or air movement, so that dust and germs aren't spread around.

4) **Decorating Freedom** - Radiant heat is much more attractive than conventional heat. There is no need to concern yourself with the location of radiation. The heat is out of the way, providing maximum freedom in designing a home or commercial building. It has particular application in areas with limited wall space or excessive heat loss, such as solariums, kitchens, entry ways or baths.

As with everything, there are some drawbacks, but radiant seems to be ideally suited (at a somewhat higher cost) for bathrooms and kitchens with tile floors in both new construction and where we can get under the floor.

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