

# Radiant system takes heating to the next level

*Heatizon interior floor products provide more uniform heat distribution than forced air systems*

By Felipe Martinez  
Special Contributor

MURRAY — With summer's rigmarole of outside chores and home remodeling projects under wraps, it's time for Utahns to start thinking about the next season. Although you might loathe the thought, it's true; winter is just around the corner — with its usual clouds, moisture and chilling temperatures in tow.

Before you start packing your bags for Scottsdale, consider this: Driveways and sidewalks thawed and cleared of snow, eaves free of roof-damaging icicles and ice dams, or movie-watching in the basement theater that's so warm, bundling up in blankets and slippers isn't necessary.

"Radiant heating systems are a more efficient, uniform heat that is distributed more evenly because the heat radiates from the floor," says Steve Bench, managing member of Heatizon Systems. Radiant heat systems offer a handful of other one-uppers to the traditional heating systems — one being that radiant heat is more efficient than forced air systems.

According to Bench, snowmelt and interior floor heating systems have been around for many years and are becoming more popular in and outside of Utah. Heatizon, which has been in business for 10 years, manufactures a complete line of low-voltage radiant heating products that keep your driveways clear and your toes warm even on the snowiest winter mornings.

For Art Vanderlinden, installing a Floorizwarm Heatizon radiant heat system in a new basement bathroom was a no-brainer. Finally deciding to complete the basement in his Taylorsville home of 18 years, he wanted to create a space where his wife felt comfortable because, "she never went in the basement in the winter, even though we had forced air," he says.

"We put a small system in that room and liked it so much that it wasn't too long before we installed it in a craft room as well. It's funny, but from there, we put one under the carpet in the family room," Vanderlinden says. Calling the entire experience "a plus," he says that their radiant heat system is the one upgrade they've installed and never regretted — other than his failure to install the three simultaneously.

"It's a different kind of heat," Vanderlinden says. "You walk in and the entire room is warm, not just the floor. It warms your shoulders and your back. It's really nice and comfortable," he says.

It's never too late to install a Heatizon system, according to Bench.

"The retrofit ability of a Heatizon radiant heat system has increased greatly. It

doesn't matter how new or old a person's home is," he says. Heatizon's radiant heat systems use one of two products, Tuff Cable or Z Mesh, which can be installed in new construction or retrofitted to existing applications.

For interior applications, as well as under-shingle roof systems, Heatizon uses Z Mesh, a bronze wire mesh that's no thicker than the fabric in a screen door. It's placed over an existing concrete floor or on top of the wood sub floor and can be covered with tile, carpet or wood flooring. In roofing systems, the mesh is installed underneath the non-conductive roof covering material, making it virtually invisible.

The Tuff Cable, a copper cable, is used in snowmelt systems for driveways or sidewalks. In an existing driveway or walkway, technicians cut thin, inch-deep channels that are 6 inches apart into the pavement, which is where the cable is laid and then closed with a sealant. In new construction, the cable is installed just before the concrete is poured.

The Tuff Cable is also used under metal roofing material for invisible ice dam protection from snow and ice on the roof.



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In what is probably the most recognizable local project Heatizon has carried out, the TRAX system is protected by the Tuff Cable snowmelt system. It was installed on all passenger-access ramps to keep the areas free of snow. One of Heatizon's largest projects includes installing cables under nearly 20,000 square feet of sidewalks and stairs at the LDS Conference Center.

As far as snowmelt is concerned, Heatizon is "absolutely the best value on the planet," according to Bench. "It's far less expensive to operate and maintain than hydronic," he says. Also, Heatizon's products are solid-state and are not comprised of moving parts. Paired with its unique and lengthy 25-year warranty and its recent ETL Listing, a nationally tested laboratory, Heatizon systems are arguably the most reliable in the industry.

On the rare chance that Tuff Cable or Z Mesh is damaged, problem solving is easy.

"Our products are easy to repair," Bench says. "Both the Tuff Cable and the Z-Mesh can be soldered with a relatively simple process." Heatizon systems also feature a self-diagnosing control box that will essentially "tell you what's wrong with it," he explains. "They require very little, if any, annual maintenance and they last for years."

Heatizon's technology is unique because it uses a low-voltage electricity,



*A Heatizon system keeps eaves free of roof-damaging icicles and ice dams.*

ranging from 8 to 30 volts AC with Z Mesh and 8 to 62 volts AC with Tuff Cable. While this eliminates many safety concerns, it also makes reducing your heating bill feasible. Unlike forced air, radiant heat doesn't need to cycle constantly, making it more cost-effective. Homeowners can program the system as they see fit.

And when it comes to being a friend of the environment, radiant heat is the kinder option because no pollen, dust or other particles are circulated. This also makes the system more comfortable to those with allergies or asthma.

For more information on Heatizon products, call (801) 293-1232 or visit the Web site at [www.heatizon.com](http://www.heatizon.com).



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