



Heat Pump FAQs

By Dave Green

While talking to people at the climate advice stand and during visits with the infrared camera, several questions keep coming up. We are producing a list of 'FAQs' and will post soon on the website and reproduce some here. If you have any questions just e-mail us!

Is a heat pump suitable for an old house?

Probably! An older house is not necessarily a barrier to having a heat pump installed instead of burning oil or gas for heating and hot water. If the house can be insulated to a reasonable standard (EPC 'C' or above is a good guide) then the lower flow temperature from a typical heat pump can deliver the heat required. It will often need some radiator upgrades (I had three singles replaced with doubles and a big one replacing a towel rail in the bathroom) but 'you have an old house so can't have a heat pump' is not true.

I've heard of heat pumps, but don't I need underfloor heating and ground source/digging up my garden?

Absolutely not! Air source heat pumps are just fine and much cheaper than ground source and both can be 'plugged into' an existing central heating system (most systems do need a hot water tank however). There is some question about micro-bore pipes used in some central heating systems, but my installer said that was not necessarily a barrier.