

NORTHERN HEATING & VENTILATION INSTALL SYSTEMS WHICH TAP INTO THE EARTH'S CONSTANT TEMPERATURE FOR HEATING AND COOLING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT GEOTHERMAL:

How does a Geothermal heating and cooling system work?

Outdoor temperatures fluctuate with the changing seasons but underground temperatures don't. Four to six feet below the earth's surface, temperatures remain relatively constant year-round. A geothermal system, which typically consists of an indoor unit and a buried earth loop, capitalizes on these constant temperatures to provide "free" energy. In winter, fluid circulating through the system's earth loop absorbs stored heat and carries it indoors. The indoor unit compresses the heat to a higher temperature and distributes it throughout the building. In summer, the system reverses, pulling heat from the building, carrying it through the earth loop and depositing it in the cooler earth.

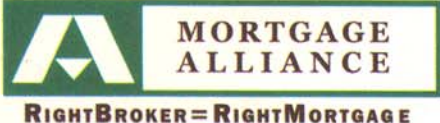
What makes a Geothermal system different from ordinary systems?

Unlike ordinary systems, Geothermal systems do not burn fossil fuel to generate heat; they simply transfer heat to and from the earth to provide a more efficient, affordable and environmentally friendly method of heating and cooling. Typically, electric power is used only to operate the unit's fan, compressor and pump.

This is the first in an ongoing series about Geothermal. FAQ will run each issue in *OUR HOMES*.



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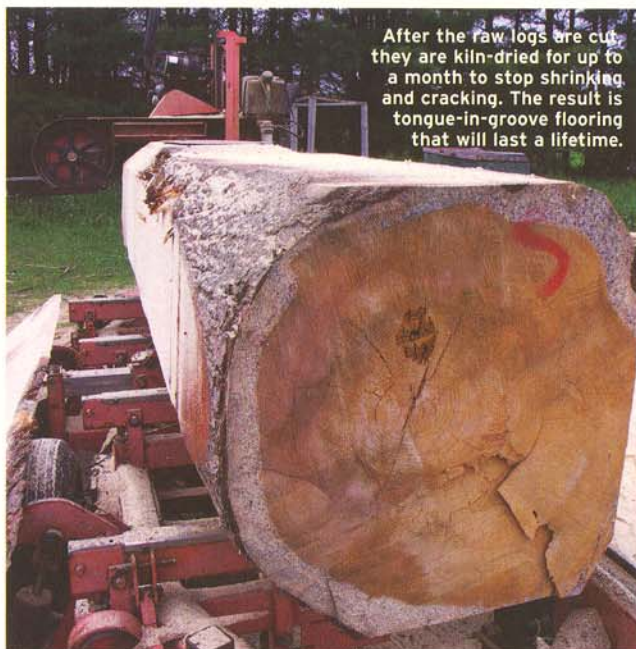
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hardwood flooring



After the raw logs are cut, they are kiln-dried for up to a month to stop shrinking and cracking. The result is tongue-in-groove flooring that will last a lifetime.

site-finished and pre-finished engineered flooring, Ron Knight, the company's General Manager, is eager to assist area residents with their individual flooring designs. Part of the fun, he says, is that flooring, when chosen and installed correctly, enhances a room majestically. "It's rewarding," he says, smiling.

Back in Collingwood, Gardner also knows what customers in this niche flooring market want. He must because he sells flooring for country homes, chalets and cottages all over Ontario. "People who buy my product want natural Old World charm. They like authentic floors with character and durability that go well with country homes with timber and post and beam construction," Gardner explains.

Along with flooring, Gardner is branching out into the production of cedar and white oak shingles for roofs and siding. His easy smile and gentle laugh surface as he and worker Chris Griesbach operate the 100-year-old shingle mill made by the old Owen Sound Iron Works. As the machine clanks in action, Gardner warms to the subject. "White oak shingles will last 200 years. It has to be white oak, not red! It's what the old American clipper ships were made from. But it's important that the shingles are installed correctly so they will last," he says knowingly.

Like the time-tested equipment and original methods he uses to create a quality product, Gardner speaks of the fine-tuning he's done over the years to create flooring invested with this former builder and carpenter's genuine love of wood.

"When people say something can't be done, I take that as a challenge. You don't say that to an old farm boy," says Gardner.

This gentle man brings a farmer's work ethic and a carpenter's creative genius to a unique manufacturing enterprise, which enhances homes throughout the province and, in the process, allows him to share his love of one of nature's greatest gifts. When this visit ends, Gardner stands patting a mammoth, 80-year-old, white pine log like an old friend, while, behind him, his own stand of majestic pines sway in the wind, as if nodding to the special man who gives their species new life. **OH**

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