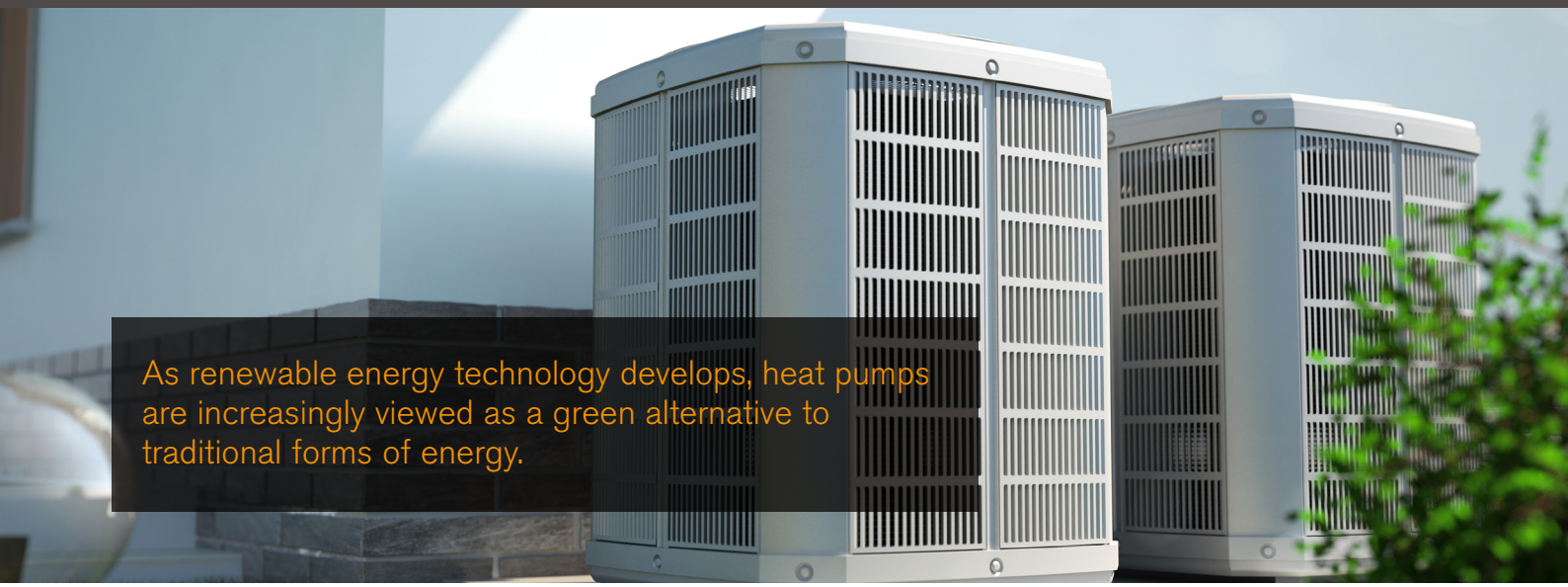
Heat Pumps

This guidance highlights some of the risks associated with the installation and use of heat pumps and steps that should be considered to help manage these risks.

RISK ADVICE LINE

Having read this guidance should you have any additional questions on this topic or other risk related matters, as a valued Ecclesiastical customer you can contact us through our 'Risk Advice Line' on 0345 600 7531 (Monday to Friday 9am 5pm, excluding bank holidays) and one of our in-house risk professionals will be able to assist. Alternatively you can email us at **risk.advice@ecclesiastical.com** and one of our experts will call you back within 24 hours.

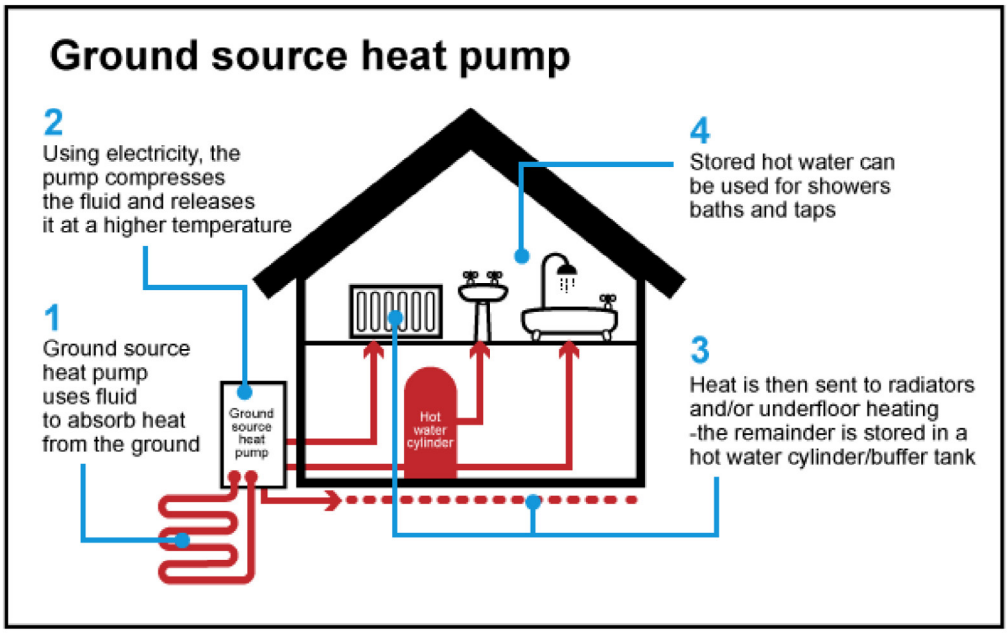
For queries about your policy cover or claims please contact your insurance broker. If you are a direct Church customer please call 0345 777 3322 for policy queries or 0345 603 8381 for claims.



As renewable energy technology develops, heat pumps are increasingly viewed as a green alternative to traditional forms of energy.

Ground source heat pumps

These use pipes which are buried outside to extract heat from the ground itself. This heat energy can then be used to power and heat radiators, under floor or warm air heating systems and hot water.



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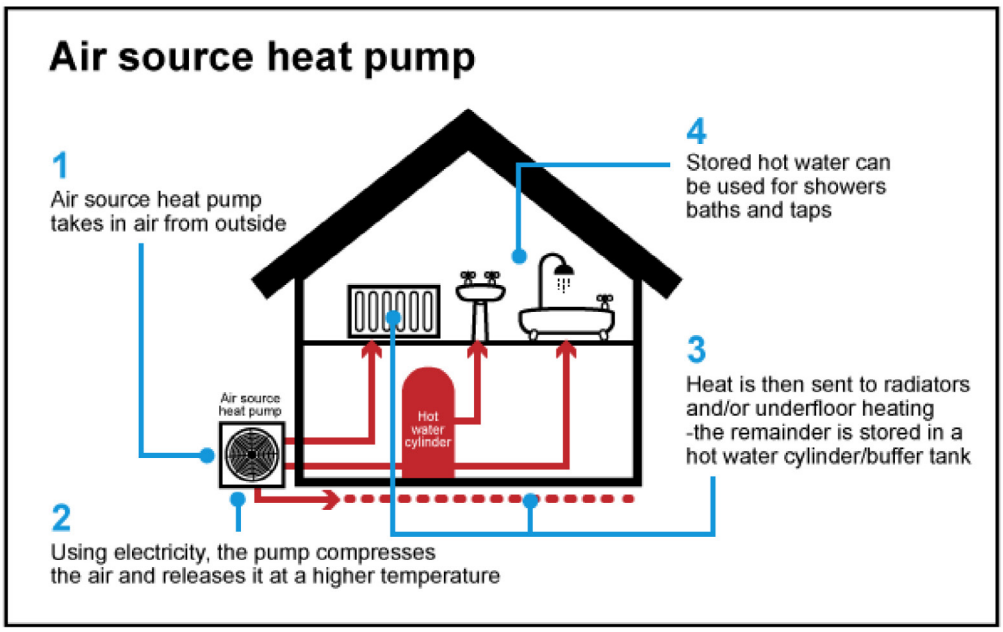
Air Source Heat Pumps

Also known as air to water heat pumps, work in a similar way except that they extract heat out of the outside air instead of the ground. This heat can then be used to heat radiators and under floor heating systems.



What you need to do

By adopting a sensible approach much can be done to ensure a heat pump works safely and efficiently to provide heat and hot water to your premises.

It is important to employ an expert to undertake a feasibility study. You should inform us that you are planning to install a heat pump at the earliest opportunity.

Our minimum expectation is set out below.

The installation

Installation of heat pumps should be conducted by an installer who is certified under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS), which demonstrates that they comply with industry standards such as GHSPA etc. In addition to this, the installer should also be using MCS-certified products.

The installer should provide written details of any other maintenance checks that need to be undertaken as well as an emergency guide. In the event of a pressure drop (indicating a possible leak), there should be a simple plan of action including contact numbers for the installer.

Maintenance

It is advisable to consult with the supplier for exact maintenance requirements before committing to installing a heat pump.

Regular self-inspection and a more detailed service/maintenance check by a professional installer annually is recommended. If a service is not undertaken this can lead to inefficient operation, increased running costs and possible equipment failure. All plant and equipment must be inspected, serviced/maintained as per the manufacturer's recommendations.

Self-inspection may include checks of the water pump, external pipes and fittings and electronics or checking that the air inlet grill and evaporator are free from leaves or other debris; removal of any vegetation/debris near the heat pump etc.

Areas associated with the heat pump equipment, including any heat exchanger etc. should be swept out and cleaned down at least weekly and all combustible waste removed.

You may be advised by the installer to check the central heating pressure gauge from time to time. If so, you should be shown how to do this. Also, isolation switches should be clearly labelled and located in an accessible position if possible.

It is recommended all work should be undertaken by an approved and qualified engineer e.g. HETAS or MCS approved installers.

Reducing the fire risk

Few fire risks have been identified.

There will be a requirement to meet the legislative requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 where systems are being used in a workplace. Fire and general risk assessments completed for a workplace must include the hazards related to this equipment and precautions to ensure people are protected.

Relevant training (including refresher training) must be provided to staff and any volunteers operating in a workplace about the hazards and precautions required when using this equipment. It is important employers keep records of this training for future reference.

Helpful Information

https://www.gshp.org.uk/GSHP_Standards.html

https://www.gshp.org.uk/pdf/EA_GSHC_Good_Practice_Guide.pdf

https://mcscertified.com/

https://acrib.org.uk/

https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/

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