

When two plane surfaces of infinite size are parallel to each other and their surfaces are at different temperatures, the exchange of heat between the two is proportional to the difference between the fourth powers of their absolute temperatures. This is also true when one surface is completely surrounded by another surface; for example, if one sphere is placed within another sphere, the flow of heat between the outer surface of the smaller sphere and the inner surface of the larger sphere is proportional to the fourth power of the absolute temperatures of the two surfaces.

In a panel-heated room, the heated panel may be considered to be completely enclosed by the remaining surfaces, because all heat radiated by the heated panel is intercepted by those surfaces. Consequently, the flow of heat from the heated ceiling to the room, by radiation, is proportional to the difference between the fourth powers of the absolute temperature of the ceiling and the absolute mean radiant temperature of the remaining surfaces.

The rate at which a surface emits heat varies with the temperature of the surface and with other characteristics of the surface. For ordinary heat flow calculations it is

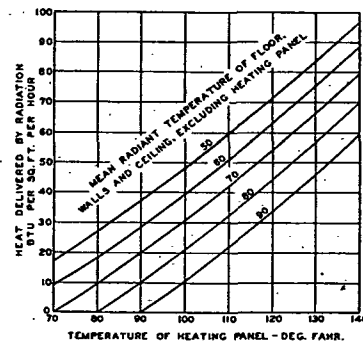


FIG. 9. HEAT DELIVERED TO ROOM BY RADIATION FROM PANEL

sufficiently accurate to assume that the materials which are commonly used in building construction emit heat at a rate of:

$$0.156 \left(\frac{T}{100} \right)^4 \text{ Btu per square foot}$$

where

T is the absolute temperature of the surface in Fahrenheit degrees.

On this basis the flow of heat from the ceiling to its surrounding surfaces is at the rate of:

$$480 \times 0.156 \left[\left(\frac{T}{100} \right)^4 - \left(\frac{522}{100} \right)^4 \right] \text{ Btu.}$$

In order that this rate may be equal to 24,582 Btu/h, T must be 572 and the ceiling temperature about 112 F.

Instead of calculating this temperature it may be taken from Fig. 9, as follows: The ceiling must deliver heat to the room, by radiation, at the rate of 24,582/480 or 51 Btu per square foot. Find 51 on the left margin and move horizontally to the intersection with a 62 MRT line, and from the point of intersection to the lower margin and read about 112 F.

With a ceiling temperature of 112 F, the MRT of the room will be $480 \times 112 \div 1,536 \times 62$; the sum divided by 2,016, or 74 F.

If an air temperature of 68 F and an MRT of 74 F should not produce satisfactory conditions, the ceiling temperature can easily be changed as necessary by changing the temperature of the circulating water.

Calculations like the preceding may also be made with the aid of Table 2. The rate at which the ceiling must radiate heat exceeds by 51 Btu per square foot the rate at

TABLE 2. TOTAL HEAT EMISSION BY RADIATION^a

BODY OR MEAN RADIANT TEMPERATURE F DEG	Radiation in Btu per (square foot) (hour) emitted to surroundings with a temperature of absolute zero by bodies at various temperatures and with emissivity factor ϵ				BODY OR MEAN RADIANT TEMPERATURE F DEG	Radiation in Btu per (square foot) (hour) emitted to surroundings with a temperature of absolute zero by bodies at various temperatures and with emissivity factor ϵ			
	ϵ 1.00	ϵ 0.95	ϵ 0.90	ϵ 0.80		ϵ 1.00	ϵ 0.95	ϵ 0.90	ϵ 0.80
30	99.7	94.7	89.8	79.7	71	137.0	130.1	123.3	109.7
35	103.9	98.7	93.6	83.1	72	137.9	131.0	124.0	110.3
40	108.0	102.8	97.2	86.4	73	138.9	132.0	124.9	111.0
45	112.5	106.9	101.3	89.0	74	140.2	133.1	126.1	112.1
46	113.3	107.7	102.0	90.8	75	141.6	134.4	127.4	113.2
47	114.3	108.6	102.9	91.5	80	147.2	140.0	132.5	117.9
48	115.2	109.5	103.8	92.3	85	152.9	145.2	137.6	122.4
49	116.0	110.3	104.5	92.8	90	158.5	150.5	142.7	126.9
50	116.9	111.0	105.3	93.6	100	170.3	161.7	153.2	136.2
51	117.9	112.0	106.4	94.4	110	182.3	173.2	164.2	146.0
52	118.8	112.9	106.9	95.1	120	195.6	185.7	176.1	156.5
53	119.8	113.8	107.8	95.9	130	210.9	200.4	189.8	168.8
54	120.6	114.6	108.6	96.6	140	224.1	212.9	201.8	179.2
55	121.7	115.5	109.4	97.3	150	238.0	226.1	214.4	190.5
56	122.6	116.4	110.3	98.1	160	252.1	239.8	226.9	201.8
57	123.5	117.4	111.3	98.9	170	271.6	258.0	244.5	217.2
58	124.4	118.2	112.0	99.6	180	289.1	274.9	260.1	231.3
59	125.3	119.0	112.8	100.3	190	307.7	292.1	276.9	246.1
60	126.3	119.9	113.8	101.1	200	326.5	310.2	293.9	261.3
61	127.1	120.7	114.4	101.8	210	349.3	331.9	314.3	279.5
62	128.2	121.8	115.3	102.6	220	373.0	354.4	335.7	298.2
63	129.1	122.6	116.2	103.3	250	439.5	417.6	395.6	351.6
64	130.1	123.5	117.1	104.1	300	577.3	548.2	519.6	461.8
65	131.0	124.4	117.9	104.8	350	743.0	705.8	668.6	594.3
66	132.1	125.5	118.8	105.8	400	945.8	898.5	850.8	756.5
67	133.0	126.4	119.7	106.4	450	1181.0	1121.0	1063.0	944.0
68	134.0	127.3	120.5	107.2	500	1470.0	1396.0	1323.0	1176.0
69	135.0	128.3	121.5	108.0	550	1798.0	1708.0	1619.0	1439.0
70	136.0	129.3	122.3	108.8	600	2181.0	2072.0	1962.0	1745.0

^aThese factors are calculated from the formula

where

$$q_r = \epsilon \left(\frac{0.173 \times T}{100,000,000} \right)$$

q_r = total radiation, Btu per (sq ft) (hr)

ϵ = emissivity.

T = absolute temperature, Fahrenheit degrees.

which the ceiling receives radiant heat from its surroundings. Assuming the emissivity of the walls, floor, and ceiling to be 90 per cent of that of a black body, the heat radiated to the ceiling, from the surfaces whose MRT is 62 F, is (Table 2) at the rate of 115.3 Btu per square foot; the ceiling must therefore radiate heat at the rate of 115.3 plus 51, or 166.3; its temperature must be (Table 2) between 110 F and 120 F, and, by interpolation, 112 F, as calculated.

7. Select the medium for heating the ceiling panel.

The medium may be electricity, steam, air, or water, but usually is air or water. If air is used it is generally heated in the basement, passed up through hollow inside walls or through ducts in those walls, allowed to flow between the ceiling and the floor above, and returned to the basement through hollow outside walls or through ducts in those walls.

If the walls and floors are constructed of hollow tile, the cells in the tile can be placed so that they will form continuous ducts through which the warm air can flow up the inside walls, then between the ceiling and the floor above, and down the outside walls. In this way the walls and ceiling become heating panels.

If water is used as the medium, the pipes through which the water circulates—almost always under forced circulation—are placed in the floor, walls, or ceiling in such a manner that as much as possible of the heat emitted by the pipes will be delivered to the space to be heated.