



FACTSHEET

Radon Gas

Radon is a gas which occurs naturally. It is produced from decaying Radium which in turn is produced from decaying Uranium. Uranium is found in small quantities in the ground and some areas of the country have a higher concentration than others. There are variations also within any area even between neighbouring properties.

Radon escapes from the soil into the air. Out of doors the risk is negligible but in enclosed spaces it can become concentrated and a risk to health, specifically risk of damage to lung tissues when particles of decaying Radon are breathed in.

There is a recommended limit for Radon concentration in UK homes called the Action Level. A Radon-affected area is declared when 1% or more of dwellings in the area are at or above the Action level.

Public Health England has an information service on how to test for Radon in buildings. The test takes three months.

If positive there are various remedial measures which can be taken, for example some of the following which are all based around preventing Radon entering the house or removing it when it gets in.

- Install a Radon sump system to vent the gas into the atmosphere.
- Improve ventilation under suspended timber floors.
- Use positive ventilation by blowing air in from loft level.
- Seal cracks and gaps in solid concrete floors.
- Change the method of ventilation of the house (suitable for some properties).
- Construct an airtight membrane across the floor and through the walls (suitable for properties being newly constructed).

More information can be obtained from:

Public Information Access Office, Public Health England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG

Tel. 020 7654 8000 E-mail: enquiries@phe.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/>

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