



## Radon Gas Fact Sheet

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### Why is it a risk to our health?

Elevated levels of radon can **cause lung cancer**, particularly for smokers and ex-smokers. Radon produces tiny radioactive particles in the air we breathe. Radiation from these particles damages our lung tissue and over a **prolonged period** may cause lung cancer. The higher the level and the longer the period of exposure, the greater the risk will be

### How is it measured?

Radon is measured and expressed in units of activity per cubic metre of air: Bq m<sup>3</sup>. The average level in the UK is around 20 Bq m<sup>3</sup>; with levels as high as 10,000 Bq m<sup>3</sup>. The Government advise that remedial action should be taken in any homes with an average annual radon level of 200 Bq m<sup>3</sup> and workplaces 300 Bq m<sup>3</sup>

### Where is Radon found?

Radon is produced from the natural radioactive decay of uranium, which is found in all rocks and soils. Radon can also be found in water. Radon escapes from the ground into the air, where it decays and produces further radioactive particles.

Every building contains radon, but the levels are typically low. The chances of a higher level depend on the type of ground. UKHSA has published a map showing where elevated levels are more likely. Explore the map to review your area.

[UKradon - UK maps of radon](#)

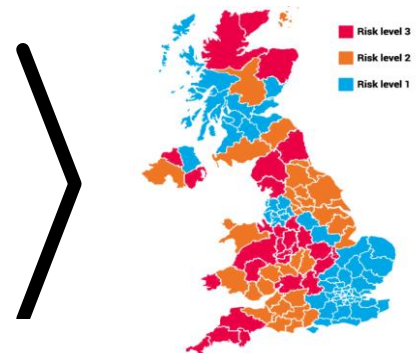
### What is it?

Radon is a radioactive gas, we cannot see, smell, or taste it: you need specialist equipment to detect it. It comes from the rocks and soil found everywhere in the UK. The radon level we breathe outside is extremely low but can be higher indoors.

### How Does Radon enter the home?

Buildings naturally draw air in from the ground, through the cracks and gaps in the floors and this air will contain radon. Indoor radon often varies from building to building, within the same area. The only way to know the levels in each home is to test.

Radon affected  
Areas in the UK



### Testing for Radon

The best way to establish radon levels in your home is to measure with a radon test kit using the detectors shown below. Due to weather conditions, temperatures and atmospheric pressure, radon levels vary day to day which is why UKHSA recommend that a measurement period should be at least 3 months. If a home is above 200Bq m<sup>3</sup> then remediation measures should be taken. Radon is only harmful if you are exposed to it over a prolonged period.

