

PHE advises that radon gas should be measured in all properties within radon Affected Areas and that homes with radon levels above the Action Level (200 Bq m-3) should be remediated, and when achievable to below the Target Level of 100 Bq m-3. Householders with levels between the Target Level and Action Level should seriously consider reducing their radon level, especially if they are at greater risk, such as if they are current or ex smokers. Whether or not a home is in fact above or below the Action Level or Target Level can only be established by having the building tested. PHE provides a radon testing service which can be accessed at www.ukradon.org.

The information in this report provides an answer to one of the standard legal enquiries on house purchase in England and Wales, known as CON29 Standard Enquiry of Local Authority (part 1); 3.13 Radon Gas: Location of the Property in a Radon Affected Area.

If you are buying a currently occupied property in a Radon Affected Area, you should ask the present owner whether radon levels have been measured in the property. If they have, ask whether the results were above the Radon Action Level and if so, whether remedial measures were installed, radon levels were re-tested, and the results of re-testing confirmed the effectiveness of the measures.

Further information on radon is available from PHE or www.ukradon.org

5.11 Radon Protective Measures

Is the property in an area where radon protection measures are required for new properties or extensions to existing ones as described in publication BR211 by the Building Research Establishment?	Full radon protective measures are necessary
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Combined Radon Guidance: Radon is a colourless, odourless radioactive gas which is present in all areas of the United Kingdom, usually at levels that pose a negligible risk to homebuyers. However, in some areas levels of radon are much higher than in others, and in these cases it can pose a health risk. The data supplied by Public Health England (PHE) and the British Geological Survey (BGS) is not able to determine exact Radon levels, as this information can only be obtained through site-specific, in-situ testing. As more than 30% of properties in the area may be radon affected PHE recommend carrying out a site-specific radon assessment. This costs £49.80 including VAT and the results are confidential to the client. Please contact PHE (020 7654 8000) for further information and advice.

Notes on Radon

RISKS OF RADON

Radon is a radioactive gas which occurs naturally. It has no taste, smell or colour. Special devices are needed to measure it. Radon comes out of the ground. Outdoors, it is diluted to very low levels. However, in some cases the radon level indoors can build up to high concentrations. In such cases, it does pose a serious risk to health.

ACTION LEVEL FOR RADON

Public Health England (PHE) recommends that radon levels should be reduced in homes where the average is more than 200 becquerels per cubic metre of air (Bq m-3). This recommendation has been endorsed by the Government. This Action Level refers to the annual average concentration in a home, so radon measurements are carried out with two detectors (in a bedroom and living room) over three months, to average out short-term fluctuations.

RADON AFFECTED AREAS

PHE defines radon Affected Areas as those with a 1% probability or more of a home having radon above the Action Level. PHE recommends that people in Affected Areas should test their homes for radon.

HOW TO REDUCE RADON LEVELS

PHE advises that radon gas should be measured in all properties within radon Affected Areas and that homes with radon levels above the Action Level (200 Bq m-3) should be remediated, preferably to below the Target Level of 100 Bq m-3. Householders with levels between the Target Level and Action Level should seriously consider reducing their radon level, especially if they are at greater risk, such as if they are current or ex smokers.

Indoor radon levels can usually be substantially reduced at a cost comparable to many home improvements, such as replacing carpets. Details of methods of reducing radon levels are given on the Building Research Establishment Website.