



RADON – REDUCING NATURAL RISKS IN YOUR HOMES

As a responsible landlord, One Housing is currently carrying out a programme of radon testing and monitoring within specific areas of its housing stock.

What is radon?

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas, produced by rocks such as granite deep in the ground. It can seep up through the soil and find its way into your home. You can't see or smell radon but if there is a lot of it in your home it could affect your health.

Some parts of the country are more badly affected than others and Public Health England (PHE) is the government body that is responsible for tracking which areas are at risk. PHE has recently told us that new information shows that some of our homes and estates could be affected – we therefore need your help to identify at-risk homes and take action to deal with the problem to ensure your safety.

The risk in your area is small – the chance of your property being affected is between 1% and 3%. However, it's important that we make sure that levels of radon inside your home are safe.

How we test for radon

Testing is the only way to find out the actual levels of radon inside your home as factors such as the exact location, style of construction, and ventilation can all have an effect.

So it's important that you work with us to help us identify those homes that are most badly affected so that we can carry out work to make your home safer to live in.

Testing for radon is easy, but we need your help.

- We will send you a testing kit and instructions.
- You need to place two small monitors around your home (one in a living area and one in a bedroom).
- After three months, you post the monitors to Public Health England.
- We will then let you know if your property needs work to help reduce radon levels.

If your home has high levels of radon

If your home is found to have higher than acceptable levels of radon, we will take steps to reduce it. Works may include improving sealing openings in floors or improving ventilation in your property. Once we know which properties are affected, we will plan work to deal with the problem at each location.



Facts

- Radon is naturally produced within the ground in 'at risk' areas across the world.
- Until recently it was thought that radon was not a significant problem in London and South East England. But new and improved government monitoring is highlighting new areas of risk all the time.
- Indoor radon is the largest source of radiation exposure for the general public.
- Living or working in a building with high radon levels increases the risk of lung cancer.
- Smoking increases the risk from radon considerably.
- Radon in homes contributes to over 1,000 UK lung cancer cases each year.
- The average radon level in UK homes is 20 Bq m⁻³ (Becquerels per cubic metre of air).

CONTACT

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Translation

This document is also available in other languages, larger print and audio format on request. For more information please call our Customer Information Hub on 0300 123 9966 or 020 8821 5300

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