

Don't Forget

- Longer tests give better estimates of the annual average.
- The price includes the analysis, the report and all postage and packing.
- First-class post is used for detectors and result letters.
- Screening results are normally provided within five working days.
- Recommended test results are normally provided within twenty working days.

Remember the result will be less acceptable if

- the property is unoccupied for much of the test period
- there are on-going building works
- the detectors are not placed on arrival
- the test period is shorter than three months
- the detectors are 'stored' for any length of time

How to Order

- On-line at www.hpa.org.uk/radiation
- By telephone with credit/debit card details on **01235 822622**.
- By posting a cheque made payable to HPA to the Radon Studies Group at the address below.

Further Information

Any queries call **01235 822622** during office hours
(Mon - Thurs 08.30 - 16.30. Fri 08.30 - 16.00)

For a free information pack call **0800 614529** (24 hours) or write to
Radon Studies Group, HPA Radiation Protection Division
Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards
Chilton Didcot Oxon OX11 0RQ

Radon Measurement Service

Radon

Prolonged exposure to high levels is a health risk. Radon is present in all houses and workplaces but high levels are more likely in affected areas.

Don't Ignore the Risk

A test shows the risk from radon in your home.
A low result provides reassurance.

Measure it

A test costs less than £50.

Order online at www.hpa.org.uk/radiation
Order by telephone with credit/debit card details on 01235 822622.
Order by post, send a cheque (payable to HPA) to the Radon Studies Group.

If Needed, Reduce it

Advice is provided on how to reduce high levels.
High levels are simple to fix and cost in the order of £700 - £2000.

Radon Measurement Service

Indoor radon levels vary from day to day mainly due to changes in the weather. It is the long-term average in your home that determines the risk to your health. Whenever possible, HPA recommends the standard test using two detectors (one in the living area and one in the bedroom) for three months.

Recommended test

- Costs £42.30 (including VAT)
- Two detectors, one for the living area and one for the bedroom
- Detectors are in place for three months while the property is fully occupied without a change in occupier
- Results are normally posted within four weeks of the detectors' return

Terms Used

Radon

A naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from the ground. Radon is colourless and odourless. Exposure to high levels over a long time increases the risk of lung cancer. The average level in UK homes is 20 Bq m⁻³.

Becquerels per cubic metre (Bq m⁻³)

Radioactive material is measured in units called becquerels. Radon is a gas, so its concentration is quoted as the amount in a cubic metre of air.

Action level (AL)

The Government and the HPA recommend reducing high levels of radon. This advice is given once the amount of radon reaches or exceeds the action level. The AL is currently 200 Bq m⁻³; ten times the average in UK homes.

Screening Test

Quicker screening tests are available but the shorter the test, the more uncertain the result. The result of any test lasting only a few weeks may fail to confirm whether the radon AL is exceeded. This is not the fault of the detectors but because a short test cannot average out the significant changes in radon levels that happen over time.

Screening test

- Costs £77.55 (including VAT)
- Four detectors, two for the living area and two for the bedroom
- The first two detectors are returned after two weeks
- Results are normally posted within five working days of the detectors' return
- The second two detectors are returned after three months
- Results are normally posted within five working days of the detectors' return

Results

If the result of a two-week test is
less than 100 Bq m⁻³
between 100 and 400 Bq m⁻³
more than 400 Bq m⁻³

the conclusion is
unlikely that the AL is exceeded
uncertain, need further test
likely that the AL is exceeded

For the middle result, in the ambiguous or uncertain band, the three-month test is used to decide if the action level is exceeded.

Costs

The cost includes two or four detectors, analysis, reporting and explaining the result and all post and packing. Wherever possible HPA recommends the longer, less expensive test.