

February 4th World Cancer Day 2015



Radon exposure is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers

What is radon?

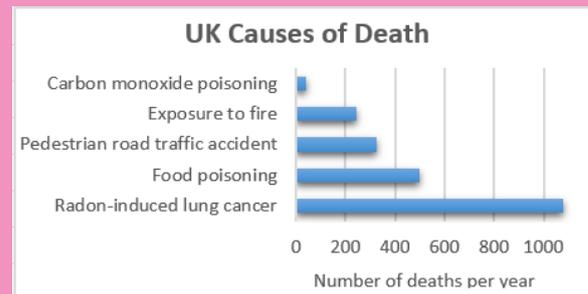
Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally in the ground. When the gas escapes from the ground, it can dissipate in the open air or become trapped inside buildings. You cannot see, smell or taste radon so unless you have carried out a test, you have no way of knowing whether elevated levels of radon are within your building.



Radon can be found in buildings of any type, age, size or location.

Is radon dangerous?

Long term exposure to elevated levels of radon increases your risk of lung cancer. When radon decays, it emits alpha radiation particles that can be inhaled and cause lung cancer. Radon exposure is linked to over 1000 lung cancer deaths in the UK every year.



How can I test for radon?

Testing for radon is easy and inexpensive. Simply purchase a radon test kit from a trustworthy source, place the detectors in your building according to the instructions and then return them to the laboratory for analysis. A home radon test will usually cost less than £50 and be carried out over a three month period.

You will receive a report confirming the radon concentration and whether any further action is required.



Can radon levels be reduced?

Yes. If testing reveals high concentrations of radon are present in a building, there are various mitigation techniques that can be used to reduce concentrations to an acceptable level. These methods include sump systems that draw radon out from beneath a building and positive pressure systems that inhibit it being drawn inside. Always ensure that you use a professional contractor who is trained in radon mitigation, as it is possible to increase radon levels with unsuitable systems and designs.

