

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more advice and information contact:

**HEALTH PROTECTION AGENCY
CENTRE FOR RADIATION, CHEMICAL
AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS
RADIATION PROTECTION DIVISION**

CHILTON

DIDCOT

OXFORDSHIRE

OX11 0RQ

Phone: 01235 831600 or

Fax: 01235 833891

Email: rdp@hpa-rp.org.uk

Website: www.hpa.org.uk/radiation

**British Geological Survey
Kingsley Dunham Centre**

Keyworth

Nottingham

NG12 5GG

Tel: 0115-936-3143

Fax: 0115-936-3276

Email: enquiries@bgs.ac.uk

Web: www.bgs.ac.uk

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

PO BOX 17

TOWN HALL

RIPLEY

DERBYSHIRE

DE5 3TU

Phone: 01773 841308

Fax: 01773 841317

Email: envhealth@ambervalley.gov.uk

The Council also produces the following
leaflet concerning Radon at work:

HELPING YOU

to reduce radon in your workplace

The address of our Headquarters is:

Amber Valley Borough Council

Town Hall, Market Place, RIPLEY,

Derbyshire DE5 3XE

Tel: 01773 570222

Fax: 01773 841343

E-mail: enquiry@ambervalley.gov.uk

Website: www.ambervalley.gov.uk

Switchboard and Reception Opening Hours

9.00am - 4.30pm Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday and Friday.

10.00am - 4.30pm Wednesday



A Minicom telephone system for
hearing impaired people is now in
operation at the Council.

Please dial 01773 841490

EMERGENCY NUMBER

Out of office hours only - 01773 841414

**ONLY TO BE USED IN A REAL EMERGENCY -
THREAT TO LIFE OR PROPERTY**

Direct Dial Helplines between 9.00am - 4.30pm Monday,

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

10.00am - 4.30pm Wednesday

Council Tax Recovery 01773 841445

Business Rates 01773 841444

Benefits/Council Tax 01773 841470

Refuse Collection 01773 841326

NEEDLES HOTLINE NUMBER IS OPEN 24

HOURS - 0800 0925131

OUR TOWN CENTRE OFFICES

Payments and enquiries are at:

Alfreton House, High Street, Alfreton

King Street, Belper

Market Place, Heanor

Opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,

Friday 9.00am - 4.30pm

Wednesday 9.00am - 1.30pm

Market Place, Ripley

Opening hours: Monday - Friday

9.00am - 4.30pm

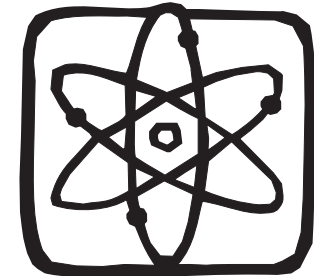


JANUARY 2009

DESIGNED & PUBLISHED BY AMBER VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

HELPING YOU

*to
reduce radon
in your home*



number 23



AMBER VALLEY
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Caring & Working for Amber Valley

What is Radon?

Radon is a gas, which is produced naturally in rocks and soils and is radioactive. Normally, the gas is diluted in the open air, but it may concentrate in buildings, entering through small cracks and gaps. Radon has no smell, colour or taste so it is very difficult to detect.

How Radon can affect you

- Radon decays into tiny radioactive particles which when inhaled, expose the lungs to radiation. This increases the risk of developing lung cancer.
- On average, about one in thirty people exposed for a lifetime to high concentrations of Radon would be expected to develop lung cancer.
- Radon is the second largest cause of lung cancer after smoking.
- The risk of developing lung cancer from Radon increases significantly if you also smoke.

Radon affected areas

Radon levels vary between different parts of the country and even between neighboring properties. The average level of Radon in houses is 20 Becquerels per cubic metre (Bq/m³). An annual average of 200 Bq/m³ is considered to be the **Action Level**; above this level steps should be taken to reduce the radon in the property.

Parts of the UK where 1% or more of homes are above the Action Level have been declared to be **Radon Affected Areas**. This includes part of Amber Valley.

Checking for Radon in the home

- **Estimated probability**
You can obtain an estimate of the probability that an individual property is above the **Action Level** for radon from the **www.ukradon.org** website, this website is run by the Health Protection Agency (**HPA**) and the British Geological Survey (**BGS**). The standard charge for this service is £3.53 per property.
- **Extended measurement**
The only reliable guide to the level of radon in a building is a measurement over a period long enough to average out short-term variations in radon levels, this should ideally be three months. The procedure uses passive monitors that are simple to use and can be sent by post. The result for each home is confidential. This service is, provided by the **HPA** and others. The **HPA** test is available to any householder in the UK at a cost of £39.95.
- **Radon screening**
This service provides an early indication of the likely result after only a couple of weeks. Costing £73.79, provided by the **HPA**. This can be useful for testing the effect of mitigation work or when planning structural changes to a building. Short-term measurements will be inconclusive in some cases. Screening tests can be helpful provided they are conducted in addition to the standard three-month test.
- **Individual report**
The **HPA** provides a one page report on the radon potential for a home, the cost of the service is £23.50. This report provides advice on radon potential, the report also includes brief advice on what to do next.

Reducing Radon Levels

This may include installing a sump that redirects the gas, using ventilation fans or sealing the floors. The cost of remedial work can vary from £200 to £1500. Where you need to hire a builder to carry out remedial work you should choose someone who is experienced in Radon Treatment. Builders can be found from the **Building Employers Confederation** or the **Federation of Master Builders**.

Buying or selling a house in a Radon Affected Area

If the property is a new house you should find out whether protection was included when it was built. If it is an older house the purchaser may wish to have a test done once they have moved in. Remedial work can be carried out afterwards if necessary, in the same way as damp problems or timber treatment.

If there is a high risk that there will be a problem with the property, you may wish to renegotiate the price or agree a bond to cover remedial costs should they subsequently prove necessary. Since Radon is routinely controlled it should not be seen as a reason for not buying a particular house.