

Radon

What is Radon?

Radon is a colourless, odourless radioactive gas, formed from the natural decay of uranium present in rocks and soils.

What does it do?

High concentrations have been found to slightly increase the risk of developing lung cancer. Levels determined in the home however present an extremely low risk.

Has a standard been set for limiting radon in the home?

Yes. The Government (on advice from the National Radiological Protection Board – NRPB) has set a national *Action Level* of 200 Becquerels per cubic metre of air (Bqm³) averaged over a year.

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from:

National Radiological Protection Board
Chilton
Didcot
Oxon
OX11 0RQ
Telephone: 01235 831600
Fax: 01235 833891
E-mail: nrpb@nrpb.org
Web: www.nrpb.org

Environmental Health Department
Nottingham Road
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE13 0UL
Telephone: 01664 502502
Email: environmentalhealth@melton.gov.uk
Web: www.melton.gov.uk

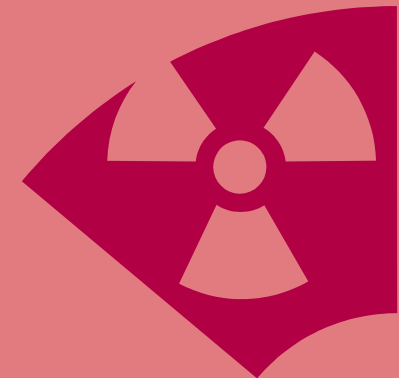


Melton
Borough
Council



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Radon



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Health & Safety

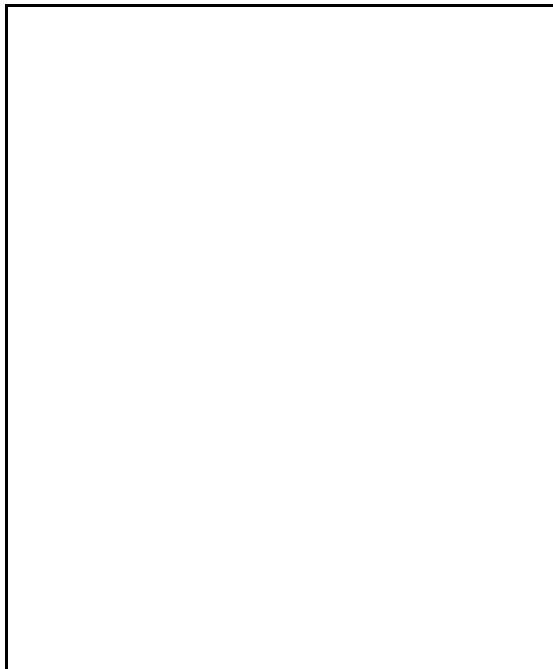
What is a 'Radon Affected Area'?

The radon affected area, as designated by the NRPB, means that there is a 1-3% probability of finding radon levels in buildings at or above the action level.

The designated areas are based along the boundaries of the 5km ordnance survey grid squares.

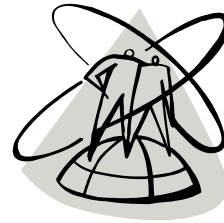
For Your District this means:

See the map below:



What is the average level of Radon in the Melton District?

Recent surveys suggest that the average concentration of Radon in the area is xx Bqm³. To obtain this average some properties may have exceeded the Action Level. The council does not hold information on individual properties.



What can be done to reduce radon in the home?

Since 1991 The Building Regulations have required that basic radon protection measures must be taken for all new buildings within a radon affected area.

Basic protection measures usually entail improved ventilation for the home, and further information can be obtained for the Building Control division of this council.

Advice can also be obtained from the NRPB.

I'm selling my home and Radon has come up on the property search. Why is this an what Can I do?

Since summer 2002, the existence of radon has been a standard question in the land search process to give the purchaser the maximum information about their intended purchase. Prior to this, radon was an optional question at extra cost.

The NRPB is now able to provide an individual report on the radon potential for a home. The service covers the whole of England and is based on published data.

The report does not however include information relating to specific properties.

You can get your own home tested by the NRPB. The measurements are simple, undertaken entirely by post and last three months.

The cost of a measurement is currently £36.19 including. This includes the supply of two radon detectors, their analysis and the reporting of the result. All packaging and return postage are also included.

Contact the NRPB for further information.