

# Alison Fielden & Co.

Solicitors & Notary Public

---

## FACTSHEET

### Radon Gas

Radon is a gas which occurs naturally. It is produced from decaying Radium which in turn is produced from decaying Uranium. Uranium is found in small quantities in the ground and some areas of the country have a higher concentration than others. There are variations also within any area even between neighbouring properties.

Radon escapes from the soil into the air. Out of doors the risk is negligible but in enclosed spaces it can become concentrated and a risk to health, specifically risk of damage to lung tissues when particles of decaying Radon are breathed in.

There is a recommended limit for Radon concentration in UK homes called the Action Level. A Radon-affected area is declared when 1% or more of dwellings in the area are at or above the Action level.

The Health Protection Agency has an information service on how to test for Radon in buildings. The test takes three months.

If positive there are various remedial measures which can be taken, for example some of the following which are all based around preventing Radon entering the house or removing it when it gets in.

1. Install a Radon sump system to vent the gas into the atmosphere.
2. Improve ventilation under suspended timber floors.
3. Use positive ventilation by blowing air in from loft level.
4. Seal cracks and gaps in solid concrete floors.
5. Change the method of ventilation of the house (suitable for some properties).
6. Construct an airtight membrane across the floor and through the walls (suitable for properties being newly constructed).

More information can be obtained from the Health Protection Agency, Central Office, 7th Floor, Holborn Gate, 330 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7PP. Telephone 020 7759 2700 or visit [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)

---

## Alison Fielden & Co.

Solicitors & Notary Public

The Gatehouse  
Dollar Street  
Cirencester  
Glos. GL7 2AN

Tel 01285 653261  
Fax 01285 885372

<http://www.alisonfielden.co.uk/>