

Radon in Workplaces in the Stroud District

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from traces of uranium in the ground. It can seep into buildings and become a hazard in houses and workplaces. When radon gas is breathed in the highly radioactive decay products can damage the sensitive lining of the lungs. Radon accounts for around half of the total radioactive dose received by the UK population and it is the second largest cause of lung cancer in the UK.

Much of the Stroud District, east of the M5, is affected by radon to some extent. Radon has been extensively mapped by Public Health England (PHE) and their colour coded [indicative atlas](#) of the UK can be used to identify the areas where radon is likely to be a problem.

Employers have a legal duty to carry out a risk assessment of potential exposure of employees to radon if the workplace is in a radon affected area or if rooms below ground are occupied for more than an hour a week. The radon risk assessment will normally require some inexpensive monitoring. Recent enquiries suggest that few employers are aware of the need to assess radon exposure in their workplace.

The Council has carried out risk assessments of its own workplaces, commercial lets and housing stock and has, in the past, been involved in initiatives to raise awareness amongst the owners and occupiers of residential property. In radon affected areas radon surveys are often required when properties are sold and the building regulations require radon control measures in new buildings.

In 2019 officers in the health and wellbeing service will be encouraging employers in areas likely to be affected by radon to monitor exposures if they have not already done so. A number of businesses in the worst affected areas will be contacted directly. If radon levels are found to exceed the action level for workplaces there are tried and tested remediation measures available to reduce radon exposure.

Further information about radon can be found on the Council's [web-site](#), which has links to detailed information from PHE and the Health and Safety Executive.

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