

Radon Poisoning



Intelligent Solutions for Air Quality

The Problem

Discovered in the late 19th century, Radon is a naturally occurring odourless, colourless and radioactive gas that can be found across not only the UK, but worldwide. The danger of Radon Gas exposure within properties however, was only discovered as late as 1984. Following this revelation subsequent research has enabled the development of various solutions to help solve the Radon problem.

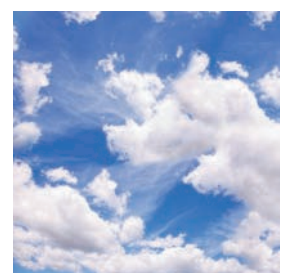
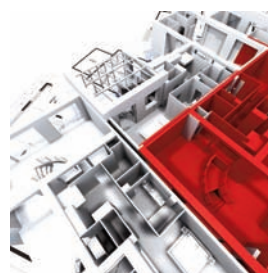
Radon is a problem that can affect properties regardless of type, age and location. The gas is formed when uranium in the soils and rocks beneath us decays. Upon permeating the ground into the open air the Radon diffuses and is quickly diluted into less harmful concentration levels. Problems only arise with Radon when the gas rises into buildings and becomes trapped, thus building concentration levels of the gas to dangerous levels. If left undetected, higher than normal levels of Radon Gas within a property will mean the occupants are exposed to Radon over a period of many years.

The Health Issues

Statistics show that in the UK alone more deaths are attributed to cancer caused by Radon gas inhalation than to asthma. Each year in the UK approximately 2000 people die from lung cancer that is directly associated with exposure to Radon Gas in their own homes. Only smoking causes more lung cancer related deaths in the UK.

Areas of Risk

By studying the Health Protection Agency maps it is possible to identify the affected areas within the UK that have potentially high concentrations of Radon Gas. There is a common misconception that Radon Gas only affects the South West of the country, the maps however highlight that the problem is much more widespread than previously believed. The Government recommendations are that a property with a yearly average Radon level of 200 Becquerel per cubic meter is at risk. The average concentration of Radon in homes within the UK is 20 Becquerel per cubic meter.



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Testing for Radon

As Radon is invisible and odourless the only way to find out if a property has significantly high levels of Radon is through performing thorough diagnostics over a 3 month period - this then allows for fluctuations according to seasonal temperatures. Passive Radon detectors are placed within the main living and sleeping areas of the property. These detectors are then sent for laboratory analysis to obtain a yearly average Becquerel level. Remedial action is then dependant on the accurate results obtained.

Enviowise offer a range of solutions to help combat Radon Gas:

• Enviowise Radon Sump System

If a property has a solid concrete ground floor the radon laden air from beneath the floor can be extracted by using a Radon sump. This is generally the most effective method, and in many cases will reduce the radon level to less than one-tenth of the original level. For radon levels above 1200 Becquerel per cubic meter. it is sometimes the only solution. Although principally appropriate for solid floors, a sump can be used with a suspended timber floor if there is a layer of concrete or a membrane covering the soil beneath it. In some cases blowing into the sump and pressurising the soil can also prove effective.

• Enviowise EnergySaver DriAir System

The system is simple to install and inexpensive to run. Fresh, dry filtered ambient air is introduced continuously into the property, diluting and displacing stale moist air within the dwelling - not only does this repel the natural seepage of Radon but it also reduces condensation to acceptable levels as well. The method is generally effective only at moderate radon levels, up to about 700 Becquerel per cubic meter, and works better in more airtight dwellings.

• Other ways to reduce Radon levels:

- Sealing floors and walls
- Increasing underfloor ventilation (e.g. Replacing old air vents)
- Improving the ventilation of the house (e.g. Installing trickle ventilators to windows)

These solutions are not all suitable for all types of house, nor are they suitable for all levels of Radon, and in some cases more than one solution will need to be used in resolving the Radon problem. This is particularly the case where a house is large or it has a cellar or basement.

Why use Enviowise ?

- Enviowise are a division of Timberwise - market leaders in property care
- Professional competence
- Approved by leading Architects / Surveyors
- Fast friendly local service nationwide
- Fully insured for Public Liability and Professional Indemnity
- Speedy, efficient and competitive
- Health & Safety approved products
- Conscientious and tidy workmanship from trustworthy tradesmen

Over the decades Timberwise have treated in excess of 300,000 properties throughout the UK. With Timberwise you can be safe in the knowledge that your property is cared for by the professionals.

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