

Building Control Guidance Note.	Subject	RADON GAS IN TAMESIDE.							25
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Recently there have been a number of revisions made to the radon maps covering Tameside, as a result there are some areas within the borough that now require radon protection to new build construction, refurbishment conversion and new extensions.

What is Radon Gas?

Radon is a naturally occurring gas. It is formed from the radioactive decay of uranium, which is found in small quantities in all soils and rocks. Radon thus released is quickly diluted into the atmosphere, concentration in the open air are very low and do not present a hazard. Radon can also enter buildings through the subsoil where in some cases can reach high concentration.

Radon Risks

Every dwelling contains some Radon gas, and where it occurs in high concentrations can pose a risk to health. Fortunately the Tameside Borough has a low Radon potential and the risk to health in the Borough is low. Refer to [Radon areas in England \(map on HPA website\)](#) / [Health Protection Agency website - radiation information](#)

Radon in existing dwellings

Useful information on Radon in existing dwellings is given in the following free publications which can be obtained by writing to: DEFRA Publications Admail 6000 London SW1A 2XX

- **Radon - A Householders Guide**
- **Radon - You Can Test for it**
- **Radon - A Guide for Homebuyers and Sellers**
- **Radon - A Guide to Reducing Levels in Your Home**

Information in the booklets is also available on the DEFRA website at:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/radioactivity/background/radon.htm>

Householders are recommended to follow advice in **Radon - a householder's guide**. The guide outlines simple solutions for dealing with the Radon problem depending on whether or not the home has been tested for Radon. In Radon affected homes, the problem of Radon can usually be tackled with simple, effective and relatively inexpensive measures. These measures are comparable in cost to work such as damp proofing and timber treatment. You can get practical advice about construction work to reduce Radon levels from the Building Research Establishment (BRE) **Radon hotline on 01235 822622**
<http://www.bre.co.uk/radon/>

Advice about Radon, its health risks and details of how to order the Radon test may be obtained from the **NRPB 0800 614529** www.nrpb.org/radon. The **Radon Council** 01932 221212 www.radonhotline.org ... the above address or contact: **NRPB Radon Freephone on 0800 614529**

Radon in New Dwellings

It is a statutory requirement of the Building Regulations that all new dwellings are assessed for the risk of Radon gas. The Building Research Establishment has published a revised guidance BR211: Radon: guidance on protective measures for new dwellings. In which geographical areas where Radon protection is necessary including measures to protect new homes from Radon gas.

Building Regulations application for New Dwellings

All Building Regulations for new dwellings must be accompanied with a geological assessment of the site to establish whether Radon protection is required. Advisory reports on the requirements for Radon protective measures (RPM) can be obtained from the British Geological Survey Keyworth Nottingham NG12 5GG.