

# **IMPORTANT: RADON AWARENESS IN BUTTERTON**

**To all residents of Butterton,**

We all know Butterton is a beautiful place to live, but our local geology—specifically the sandstone, limestone and shale beneath our feet—means our village is situated in a **High-Risk Radon Area**.

## **What is Radon?**

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas. It has no smell, taste, or colour. It seeps into homes from the ground through gaps in floors and pipes. Because we spend so much time indoors, these levels can build up.

## **Why should we care?**

Long-term exposure to high levels of radon is the **second leading cause of lung cancer** in the UK. Because Butterton's geology makes high levels more likely, it is important for every household to know their "number."

## **What should you do?**

The only way to know if your home is affected is to **test it**.

**Order a Test Kit:** Visit [www.ukradon.org](http://www.ukradon.org) to order a 3-month home measurement pack (approx. £50).

**Stay Informed:** We have produced a **Detailed Information Slide** and a **FAQ Sheet** (available at the Village Hall, Church and Black Lion and on the Website) which explains how the gas enters homes and how easily it can be fixed.

## **The Good News**

If your home does have high levels, there are simple and effective ways to fix it—ranging from improving under-floor ventilation to installing a small "radon sump."

**Don't guess—test.** Protecting your family's health starts with a simple 3-month test.

## **For more information:**

**Visit:** [www.ukradon.org](http://www.ukradon.org)

**Email:** [radon@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:radon@ukhsa.gov.uk)

# Radon Awareness: Protecting Your Home

## Important Health Information for Butterton

### ⚠️ Why Butterton?

Butterton is located in a **high-risk radon area**. Due to the local geology, there is a significantly higher probability that homes in our village contain radon levels above the **UK Action Level (200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>)**.

**Where it Comes From** Radon comes from the natural decay of **uranium** found in the rocks and soil beneath our feet.

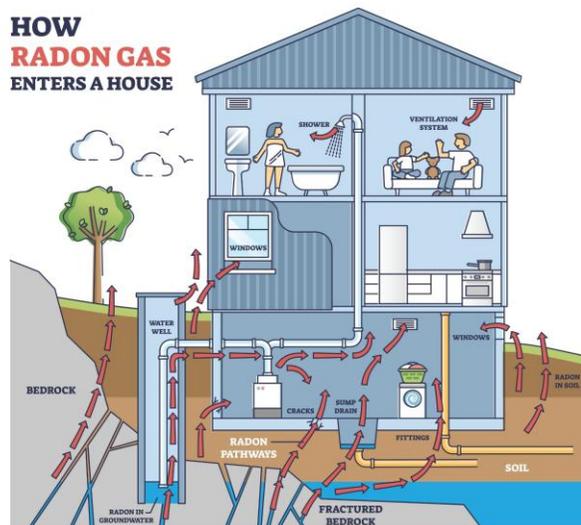
### ⊕ The Health Risk

**Invisible Hazard:** Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas. It has no colour, smell, or taste.

**Lung Cancer:** Long-term exposure to high levels of radon is the **second leading cause of lung cancer** in the UK after smoking.

**Combined Risk:** The risk is significantly higher for current or former smokers.

### HOW RADON GAS ENTERS A HOUSE



### 🔧 Mitigation: How to Fix It

If your home tests high, several effective solutions exist:

**Radon Sump:** A small void under the floor with a fan that vents gas safely outside.

**Positive Pressure Ventilation:** A system that keeps the indoor pressure slightly higher to keep gas out.

**Sealing & Improving Ventilation:** Closing entry points in floors and improving under-floor airflow.

### 🛡️ Take Action: Test Your Home

**You cannot know your radon level without a test.** The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) recommends a standard 3-month test for accuracy.

**Order Test Kits:** Visit [www.ukradon.org](http://www.ukradon.org) to order a "Home Measurement Pack" (approx. £50).

**Further Information:** Detailed maps and advice can be found at the **UKradon** website or via **Staffordshire Moorlands District Council**.

**Contact UKHSA:** Email [radon@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:radon@ukhsa.gov.uk) for technical queries.

# FAQ

## Butterton Radon Awareness: Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What exactly is Radon?

Radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the tiny amounts of uranium found in all rocks and soils. It's completely natural, but because it is odourless, colourless, and tasteless, you can't tell it's there without a specialist test.

### 2. Why is Butterton "High Risk"?

The geology of the Peak District, particularly the limestone and shale common around Butterton, contains higher-than-average levels of uranium. This means there is a higher probability (typically >30%) that homes in our village exceed the UK "Action Level." (200Bq/cu metre of air)

### 3. How does it get into my house?

Radon enters through the floor. Because your home is usually warmer than the ground, it acts like a chimney, creating a slight suction that draws gas in through:

Cracks in solid floors or gaps in floorboards.

Gaps around service pipes (water, gas, drainage).

Construction joints and cavity walls.

### 4. I've lived here for many years—is it too late to test?

**No.** While the risk is based on long-term exposure, reducing your levels now still significantly lowers your future health risks. It is never too late to make your home environment safer.

### 5. How do I test my home?

You should use a **3-month kit** for an accurate yearly average (radon levels fluctuate with the weather).

**Cost:** Approximately **£50**.

**Process:** You place two small plastic detectors (usually one in the living room and one in a bedroom) for 90 days, then post them back to the lab for analysis.

**Where to buy:** Only use validated laboratories via [www.ukradon.org](http://www.ukradon.org).

### 6. If I have high levels, will it cost a fortune to fix?

Not necessarily. Simple fixes, such as clearing existing sub-floor vents (air bricks) or sealing large gaps, can often drop levels. For very high levels, a **Radon Sump** is the "gold standard" fix. While this involves a professional installation, it is a permanent solution that typically costs about the same as a single replacement window.

### 7. Does a high radon reading affect my house value?

Generally, no. In high-risk areas like the Staffordshire Moorlands, solicitors usually check for radon during a sale. Having a test result—and a mitigation system in place if needed—actually **provides peace of mind to buyers** and can make a sale smoother.