

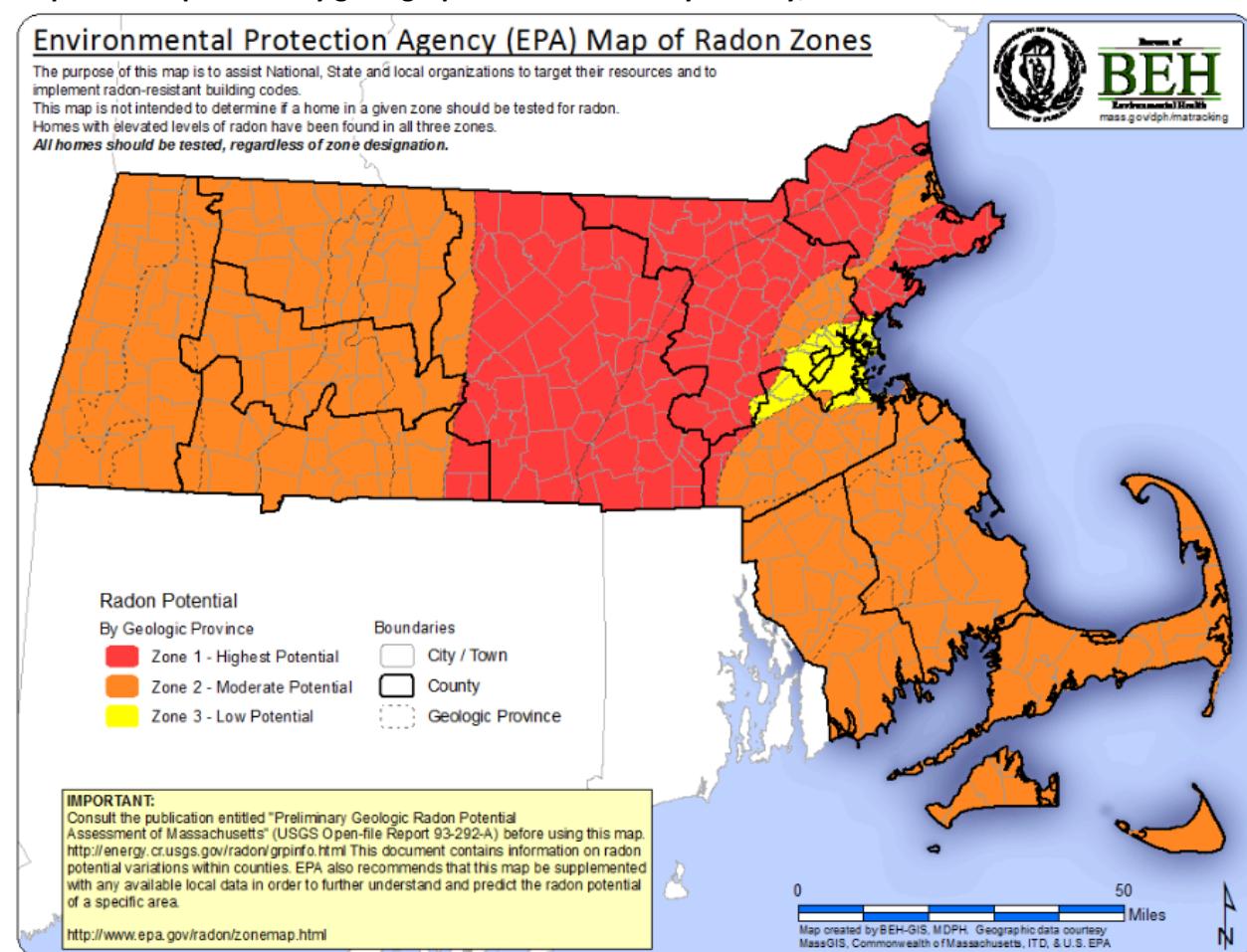
What is Radon?

Radon is a colorless, odorless and tasteless radioactive gas. Radon is created when naturally occurring elements such as uranium and radium in rocks and soil break down during a process called radioactive decay. Once radon is emitted, it migrates upwards to the ground surface through pore spaces in the soil. Radon can enter homes through cracks, joints, cavities and gaps in building floors and walls. Radon gas can also dissolve in well water and become released into indoor air from running water, but groundwater is not thought to be a major contributing source of indoor radon.

What are the Health Impacts of Radon?

Radon gas decays into microscopic solid particles that enter the lungs when inhaled. The particles become trapped in the lungs and decay further, releasing small bursts of energy as they continue to break down. These bursts of energy damage lung tissue and can increase the risk of developing lung cancer over the long-term. In fact, radon is the second greatest cause of lung cancer in the U.S. The EPA estimates that over 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the U.S. each year are related to radon.

Map of radon potential by geologic province with county and city/town boundaries:



Results of 1988 Massachusetts State Radon Survey:

County	Number of Samples	Median (pCi/L)	Maximum (pCi/L)	Percent of Samples \geq 4 pCi/L
Norfolk	171	1.9	30.1	21

Of 171 samples collected 21% tested greater than or equal to 4 pCi/L the EPA's set limit for allowable concentrations. The median amount of radon found from samples was 1.9 pCi/L and the maximum amount found was 30.1 pCi/L. These results suggest that radon concentrations are an area of concern for residents in Norfolk County.

Air testing is the only way to determine if your home has elevated radon levels. Radon test kits can be obtained from home improvement stores or you can hire a radon measurement specialist to complete testing.

Sources:

- <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/testing-your-home-for-radon#:~:text=Contact%20the%20Massachusetts%20Radon%20Hotline,one%20for%20health%20care%20providers>.
- <https://matracking.ehs.state.ma.us/Environmental-Data/radon/index.html>
- <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/radon-get-the-facts#:~:text=EPA%20estimates%20that%20628%20radon,that%20exceed%2020%20pCi%2FL>.