



# Massachusetts Radon Fact Sheet

## MASSACHUSETTS RADON AWARENESS PROGRAM

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/radon-get-the-facts>  
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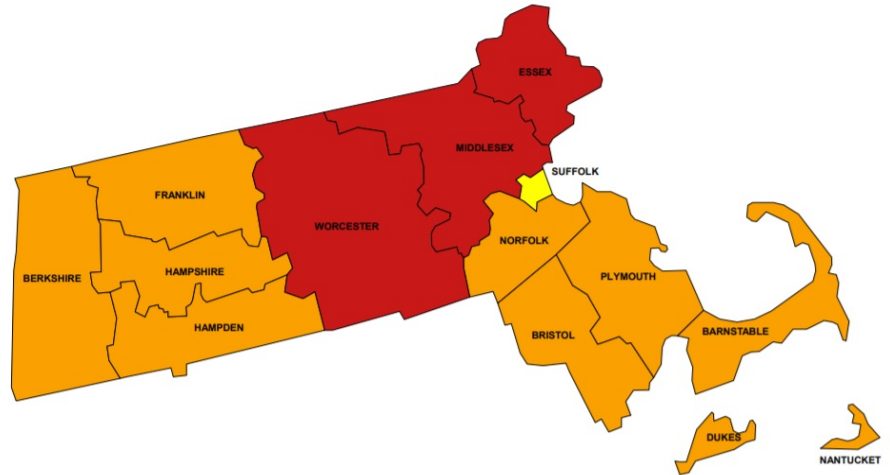
Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
250 Washington St  
Boston, MA 02108



Massachusetts Statewide 2017-2021 Cancer Plan

Massachusetts Cancer Control and Research Plan

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/05/10/cancer-state-plan-2017.pdf>



**The Massachusetts Radon Unit** is part of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The Radon Unit works closely with the EPA and receives funding through the State Indoor Radon Grant program. Massachusetts meets the 40% in-kind matching funds requirement. The Radon Unit aims to advise and assist homeowners, radon mitigators, and owners of public buildings in dealing with high levels of radon in indoor air that contribute unnecessarily to the background radiation received by members of the public.

### Massachusetts Cancer Burden & Radon Facts:

- An estimated 628 radon-related lung cancers occur annually in Massachusetts.
- In Massachusetts, it is estimated that 650,000 homes have radon levels that exceed the EPA action guideline of 4 pCi/L.
- Approximately 34,000 homes in Massachusetts have radon levels that exceed 20 pCi/L.

### Testing & Additional Resources:

Radon is found in homes new or old. It is found in homes with and without basements. It is found in houses built on ledge and houses built on the sands of Cape Cod. Testing is the only way to know if your home has elevated radon levels. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Radon Unit can advise you on how to get your home tested and can assist you in interpreting results. Radon resources developed by the Massachusetts Radon Unit are available in several languages for Massachusetts residents. Please contact the Radon Unit to get more information.

### Massachusetts Statewide 2017 – 2021 Cancer Plan

Primary Prevention – Goal #1 – To reduce the risk factors related to cancer by advancing policy, systems, and environmental change that support, promote, and enhance equity.

- Objective 9: By 2021, reduce exposure to radon by increasing testing in schools from 3 schools per year to 100 schools per year.
- Objective 10: By 2021, reduce exposure to radon by increasing testing in homes.



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## Massachusetts Enacted Legislation

### **Massachusetts General Laws, Ch. 13, § 97:**

Requires the state to publish an informational brochure for home buyers on home inspections, including information regarding radon inspections, and requires that the brochure be issued to home buyers at the signing of the first written contract to purchase. Rules promulgated under the law (266 Code Mass. Regs. 6.03) require home inspectors to notify their clients that answers to some questions, including whether or not a dwelling has been tested for radon gas, and whether there are any mold or air quality issues in the dwelling, should be ascertained from sellers and may not be readily observable through inspection.

### **Massachusetts General Laws, ch. 43, § 93-100:**

Requires the State Board of Building Regulations and Standards to adopt and administer a state building code. Regulations adopted by the Board (780 Code Mass. Regs. chap. 51) incorporate into the state residential building code an amended version of the International Residential Code Appendix F ("Radon Control Methods"), requiring passive radon-resistant new home construction in all Zone 1 (high radon potential) counties in the state. Regulations provide that alternatively, the passive system requirements of ANSI/AARST Standard Designation CCAH: "Reducing Radon in New Construction of One & Two Family Dwellings and Townhouses," or approved equal system, may be used.