

Arkansas Radon Fact Sheet

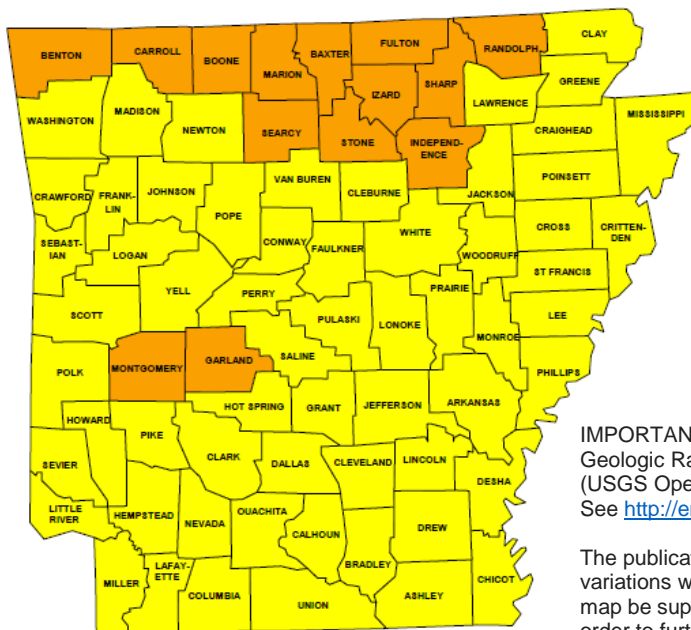
ARKANSAS RADON PROGRAM

<http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/radon-gas>

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The purpose of this map is to assist National, State, and local organizations to target their resources and to implement radon-resistant building codes. This map is not intended to be used to determine if a home in a given zone should be tested for radon. Homes with elevated levels of radon have been found in all three zones. All homes should be tested regardless of zone designation.

IMPORTANT: Consult the publication entitled "Preliminary Geologic Radon Potential Assessment of Arkansas" (USGS Open-file Report 93-292-F) before using this map. See <http://energy.cr.usgs.gov/radon/grpinfo.html>.

The publication contains information on radon potential variations within counties. EPA also recommends that this map be supplemented with any available local data in order to further understand and predict the radon potential of a specific area. Arkansas has no compiled local data.

- Zone 1** counties have a predicted average indoor radon screening level greater than 4 pCi/L (picocuries per liter). **Highest Potential**
- Zone 2** counties have a predicted average indoor radon screening level between 2 and 4 pCi/L. **Moderate Potential**
- Zone 3** counties have a predicted average indoor radon screening level less than 2 pCi/L. **Low Potential**

The Arkansas Department of Health – Radon Program provides educational information and recommendations regarding the measurement and mitigation of radon in Arkansas homes, pursuant to telephone and electronic mail inquiries. Public outreach activities are performed as resources are available. Information and recommendations given are in agreement with that of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other nationally recognized entities.

The program also maintains a radon web page on the ADH's website to make educational information and recommendations readily available. Training opportunities, Frequently Asked Questions, and helpful links are also provided.

Radon exposure is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in all individuals. Radon is estimated to cause over 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year nationwide. Although lung cancer can be treated, the survival rate is one of the lowest for those with cancer. From the time of diagnosis, between 11 and 15 percent of those afflicted will live beyond five years, depending upon demographic factors. The lifetime lung cancer mortality risk for radon in indoor air at 4 pCi/L is 7 in 1,000 for those who have never smoked and 62 in 1,000 for smokers. Mortality risk for lung cancer increases with higher concentrations of radon gas and increased length of exposure.

Enacted/Pending Legislation

The Arkansas Department of Health does not certify, license, or register individuals to perform radon measurement or radon mitigation. There is no statutory authority specific to the regulation of indoor radon or the qualifications of those persons that perform radon services professionally in our State. Exposure to radon is not included in Arkansas Cancer Plan efforts.