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**News  
release**

## **New BRE publication tackles radon issues in property market**

**Radon is the latest in a long list of building issues that need to be considered as part of a property purchase. A new publication from BRE - 'Buying homes in radon-affected areas' - provides practical advice on the subject for those involved in property transactions.**

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas. In some parts of the UK the levels of radon are higher than average, and if it is allowed to build up inside a building it can increase the occupiers' lifetime risk of developing lung cancer. For many people it is only when they move into a radon-affected area that they become aware of the issue.

The National Radiological Protection Board has identified the highest risks in Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Northamptonshire and Derbyshire - but many other areas of the UK also affected by above average levels of radon.

Since the mid-1980s the UK Government has been advising the public of the health risks associated with radon and how to reduce the radon risk in homes and workplaces.

And since 2002 radon has been included in the compulsory questions in the standard local authority search that is carried out at the time of house purchase.

**'Buying homes in radon-affected areas'** explains the issue in simple terms. It shows solicitors, conveyancers, estate agents, buyers and sellers that it can be regarded as an important but relatively straightforward issue that should not prevent or delay property transactions.

*About the author:* Chris Scivyer is one of the UK's leading experts on radon. He is a senior scientist in the Environment Division of BRE, and is the coordinator of both the UK National Radon Forum and the European Radon Forum. He has long been involved with the UK radon research programme as well as with European and international programmes of research, and has written many publications giving practical guidance on how to deal with radon.

**'Buying homes in radon-affected areas'** is published by BRE Bookshop, Garston, Watford, Herts, WD25 9XX, February 2004, ISBN 1 86081 678 9, 56 pages, Reference BR464, Price £27.50

It can be purchased online at [www.brebookshop.com](http://www.brebookshop.com) or by contacting:

BRE Bookshop. Tel: 020 7505 6622 email: [brebookshop@emap.com](mailto:brebookshop@emap.com)

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