

## Likely success of solutions

It is important to select the most appropriate solution for the building being remedied. For any solution to be completely effective it must be acceptable to the householder. It is important to remember this when considering solutions. A solution which would completely change the householder's lifestyle is unlikely to succeed in the long term. For example, increasing the ventilation of rooms may make them uncomfortable in winter. Ideally, the radon solution should be one that does not affect the indoor environment of the dwelling. Sub-floor ventilation, sealing and sump systems are therefore more likely to be successful.

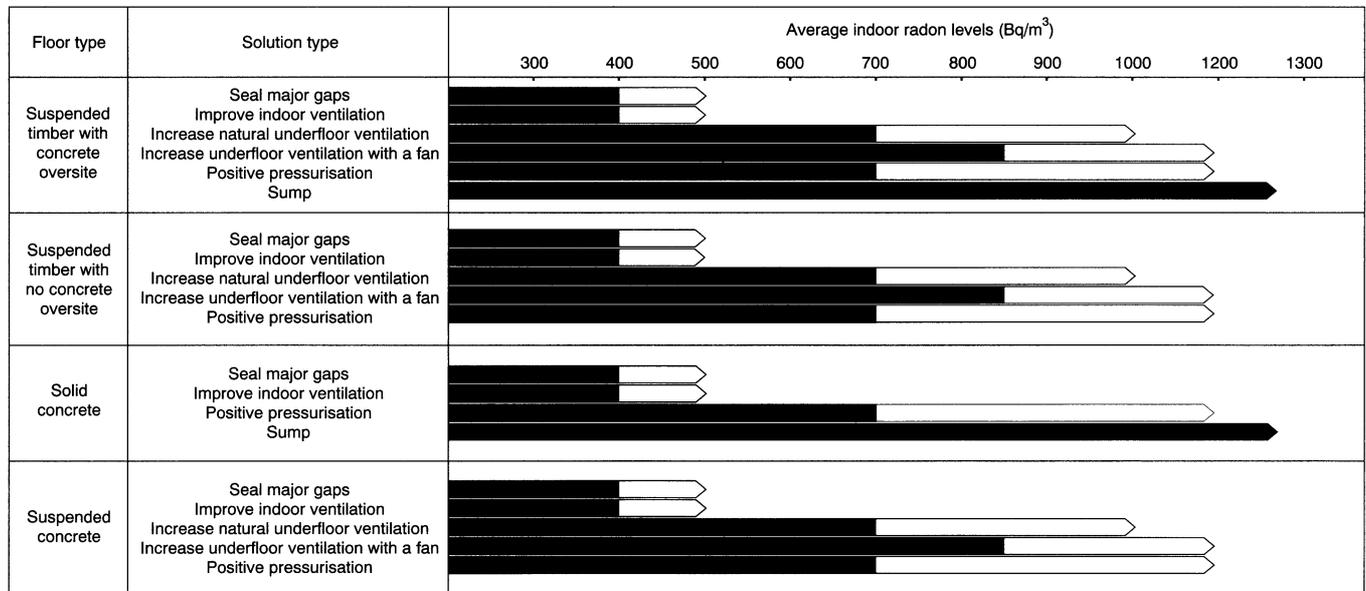
Many householders will not accept a solution that will cause disruption inside the house during installation. Some may be willing to pay for a system that is more expensive, if it means that disruption is likely to occur only once. To determine which is the most appropriate solution contractors should discuss with the householder the options available and the short- and long-term implications of each. The householder should be made aware that whichever solution is adopted there can be no guarantee that it will reduce the radon level. It may be necessary to tackle it in stages. A staged approach maybe appropriate in the following cases:

- where the house is large or its layout is complex.
- where the house is of complex construction as might be the case with an old house that has been repeatedly extended over the years.
- where the radon level is only just above the recommended action level and it may be worth trying simple solutions such as sealing or changes to ventilation rather than mechanical solutions as a first step.
- where the house has a mix of timber and concrete floors.
- where the householder has limited funds.

Considerable experience has been gained in reducing radon levels in homes. The figure on the reverse gives an indication as to the likely effectiveness of solutions based on floor type.

radon solutions





Likely effectiveness of solutions based on floor type

**Disclaimer**

It should be noted that BRE cannot guarantee that the measures described on this sheet will reduce the radon level in your home, however similar measures have regularly proven successful elsewhere in the UK.

Prepared for The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Prepared by Building Research Establishment Ltd © Building Research Establishment Ltd 2003.

Printed on recycled paper containing 80% post consumer waste and 20% Totally Chlorine Free virgin pulp.

**Other useful contacts**

Defra 020 7082 8498

[www.defra.gov.uk/environment/radioactivity/radon](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/radioactivity/radon)

NRPB 0800 614529 [www.nrpb.org/radon](http://www.nrpb.org/radon)

The Radon Council 01932 221212 [www.radonhotline.org](http://www.radonhotline.org)

PB8518q

