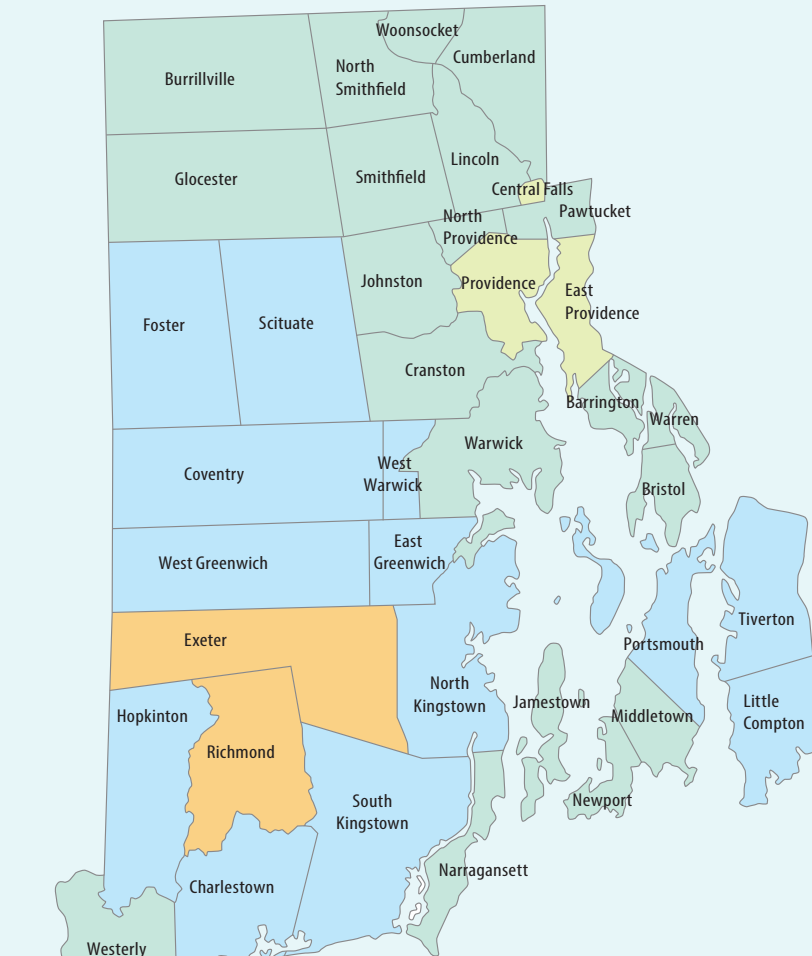
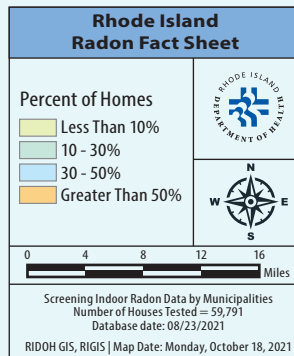




Rhode Island Radon Fact Sheet



Percentage of Homes Tested Equal to or Greater Than 4.0 pCi/L of Radon-222. Rhode Island Average: 3.58 pCi/L.



Radon is an odorless, colorless, hazardous gas that can cause lung cancer. It comes from the natural decay of uranium found in soil, rocks, and water, and can be harmful when it seeps into your home and other buildings.

- One in four homes in Rhode Island contain radon at or above the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action level of 4.0 pCi/L (picocuries per liter).
- This is significantly higher than the national average of 1 in 15 homes.
- In Exeter and Richmond, more than 50% of tested homes exceeded the EPA’s action level.

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Rhode Island Radon Fact Sheet

Rhode Island Radon Control Program

MISSION: To protect Rhode Islanders from lung cancer due to radon exposure by ensuring that no homes, schools, or other high priority buildings have unacceptable levels.

WHAT WE DO:

- Implement and enforce the mandatory radon testing and mitigation requirements for public and high priority buildings.
- Certify and control quality of the licensed radon professional infrastructure.
- Promote radon testing and mitigation in residential properties through education and outreach campaigns.
- Promote radon resistant new construction in homes, schools and public buildings.
- Manage and maintain a comprehensive radon database of public/high priority and residential test results.
- Collaborate with and support the US Environmental Protection Agency's *Protecting People and Families from Radon* Initiative.

Rhode Island Cancer Prevention and Control Strategic Plan (2022 - 2026)

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES

GOAL: Reduce the incidence of cancers related to environmental carcinogen exposures by implementing evidence-based policy, systems, and environmental changes.

OBJECTIVE 13: Establish a baseline of and reduce the number of homes with unacceptable radon levels higher than or equal to 4.0 picocuries per Liter (pCi/L) to increase the percentage of those homes that receive mitigation by 2026 (Rhode Island Department of Health Radon Database).

STRATEGIES:

- 13.1 - Modify existing data collection tools to capture data that would allow for the tracking of mitigation in homes where unacceptable radon levels are detected.
- 13.2 - Promote the adoption of radon-resistant new construction requirements.
- 13.3 - Educate the public about radon, testing, mitigation, and cancer-related exposures.
- 13.4 - Continue the radon surcharge fee assessment on new construction to promote radon resistant construction.
- 13.5 - Support initiatives to provide financial assistance for residential radon testing and mitigation.
- 13.6 - License radon measurement inspectors and radon mitigation contractors to test and/or mitigate radon in homes, schools, and other public buildings.



Rhode Island Radon Fact Sheet

Enacted Legislation

Rhode Island General Laws § 16-60-4 Authorizes the state Board of Education to approve standards for the design and construction of school buildings. The Rules and Regulations for School Construction (200-RICR-20-05-4), adopted under the law, require all new school construction and school renovation projects that cost more than \$500,000 to incorporate a radon mitigation strategy if the site is located in an area with moderate or high radon potential. These Regulations also require compliance with certain high performance construction standards, including protecting indoor air quality during renovation of occupied buildings.

Rhode Island General Laws § 23-1-5.1 Authorizes the Department of Health to provide, upon request, laboratory services for voluntary testing of indoor air pollutants, including radon. It authorizes the Department to establish fees to fund such activities.

Rhode Island General Laws Chapter 23-61 Authorizes the Department of Health to undertake a variety of radon-related activities, including: conducting a voluntary radon testing program; undertaking radon testing; requiring that owners of "high priority buildings" test for radon; recommending radon-resistant construction standards; developing a public information program; and issuing radon standards for air and water. It requires state certification or licensure of radon professionals and establishes monetary fines and other penalties for violations. It requires the state to establish regulations requiring the evaluation of all public buildings, schools, and childcare facilities for elevated radon levels. It establishes a fee on new residential construction. The Rules and Regulations for Radon Control (216-RICR-50-15-2), promulgated under the law, establish licensing and certification requirements for radon testing and mitigation professionals and radon analytical services. These Regulations establish radon standards; measurement and mitigation protocols; and requirements for testing and mitigation of high radon levels in public buildings, schools, and child care facilities. [See also 216-RICR-20-10-4 – School Health Programs and 218-RICR-70-00-1 – Childcare Center and School Age Program for Licensure]

Rhode Island General Laws §§ 5-20.8-1--8 Requires sellers of residential real estate to provide buyers with a disclosure form explaining all known deficient conditions, including radon, urea-formaldehyde foam insulation, asbestos, and hazardous contaminants. It provides that disclosure form must include the statement: "Radon has been determined to exist in the State of Rhode Island. Testing for the presence of radon in residential real estate prior to purchase is advisable."

