

Map Of Radon Zones Fact Sheet

Purpose

- Sections 301 and 309 of IRAA directed EPA to list and identify areas of U.S. with the potential for elevated indoor radon levels.
- EPA's Map of Radon Zones assigns each of the 3,141 counties in the United States to one of three zones based on radon potential.
 - Zone I counties have a predicted average indoor screening level greater than 4 pCi/L (red)
 - Zone 2 counties have a predicted average screening level between 2 and 4 pCi/L (orange)
 - Zone 3 counties have a predicted average screening level less than 2 pCi/L (yellow)

Audience

- National, state and local governments and organizations:
 - to assist in targeting their radon program activities and resources.
- Building code officials:
 - to help determine areas that are the highest priority for adopting radon-resistant building practices.

Map Development

- Five factors were used to determine radon potential:
 - indoor radon measurements; geology; aerial radioactivity; soil permeability; and foundation type.
- Radon potential assessment is based on geologic provinces:
 - Radon Index Matrix is the quantitative assessment of radon potential.
 - Confidence Index Matrix shows the quantity and quality of the data used to assess radon potential.
- Geologic Provinces were adapted to county boundaries for the Map of Radon Zones.

Map Documentation

- Detailed booklets are available for every state:
 - Booklets discuss the matrices and data used in every state.
- State booklets are an essential tool in employing the maps' information.

Important Points

- All homes should test for radon, regardless of geographic location or zone designation.
- There are many thousands of individual homes with elevated radon levels in zones 2 and; 3. Elevated levels *can be found* in zone 2 and zone 3 counties.
- All users of the map should carefully review the map documentation for information on within-county variations in radon potential and supplement the map with locally available information *before* making any decisions.
- The map is not to be used in lieu of testing during real estate transactions.

