Where can we find BC indoor radon data?

Industry, research groups, government agencies, etc.

BC Radon Data Repository (BCRDR)
How have we compiled BC indoor radon data?

formalized with a…

Key points:

- For research and health protection work
- No person-level data
- Anonymized spatial data
- Formal data request process
How will this data be made anonymous?

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Example: BCCDC, 655 W 12th Ave, V5Z 4R4, Vancouver, BC
How will this data be made anonymous?

Example: V5Z 4R4 → (1209859, 475850.6)
How will this data be made anonymous?

Example: \((1209859, 475850.6) \rightarrow (1209904, 475813.6)\)
How will this data be made anonymous?

Example: (1209904, 475813.6) + Vancouver + FSA + LHA + etc.
At a glance…

17,555 unique measurements

13,608 unique buildings

14,048 residential measurements

15,334 from alpha trackers

13,269 geocoded to points

Peter Chataway, Fine Home Designs

Donna Schmidt
Lung Cancer Prevention Society

Reducing Risk of Lung Cancer from Radon
For more information about radon, how to test your home for radon, and how to reduce your home's radon level, go to www.bccdc.ca/radon
bccdc.shinyapps.io/bcRadonMap

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aligns with Health Canada guidelines

display toggles
Indoor Radon Exposure in Interior

These coloured homes represent the estimated proportion of homes in this region that range in radon levels from very low (0-100 Bq/m³) to high (600+ Bq/m³). These estimates are based on 7234 samples taken in this region.

In this region, we estimate that 28% of homes tested are in the medium range for radon levels and 6% of homes tested are in the high range for radon levels.

Health Canada recommends to test every home for radon because levels can vary widely from house to house, even in the same neighborhood.
The coloured blocks below show your lung cancer risk from living in a home with different levels of radon:

- **1%**
  - If you smoke this goes up to: **12%**
- **1.5%**
  - If you smoke this goes up to: **15%**
- **2%**
  - If you smoke this goes up to: **17%**
- **4%**
  - If you smoke this goes up to: **26%**

There are home improvements you can make to reduce the radon in your home, but you need to test for radon to know it's a problem. To reduce your risk of lung cancer, consider testing your home for radon, especially if you smoke.

For more information on how to test your home for radon, where to buy a radon testing kit, and how to make home improvements, go to [www.bccdc.ca/radon](http://www.bccdc.ca/radon).

Radon in British Columbia

Due to geological factors, some areas in British Columbia have naturally higher surface levels of radon than others. Many of these areas are in the Interior and Northern parts of the province.

However, indoor radon accumulation can vary widely from building to building, even in the same neighborhood. Even if you live in an area with generally lower levels of radon, it is still recommended to test your home for radon.

The interactive map below displays indoor radon levels recorded in homes across BC. It also shows estimates for the increase in lung cancer risk caused by radon (both overall and for smokers).

The radon data used in this map is from the British Columbia Radon Data Repository (BCRDR), which houses de-identified indoor radon readings from across the province. The BCRDR includes radon readings from a variety of building types, but only residential readings were used to create this map.

Exposure to indoor radon

Radon can seep into your home through any opening that is in contact with the ground. It can move through cracks in the foundation, gaps around pipes, floor drains, and window casements. This can happen in both new and old homes.

In general, radon levels are highest in the lowest levels of a building, such as a basement.

Radon levels can vary greatly from house to house because the accumulation of indoor radon depends on several factors, including how much uranium is naturally in the soil of the region, how much the foundation of the home was sealed during its construction, and how much ventilation occurs in the home.

The only way to know how much radon is in your home is by testing for it.

Testing for radon in your home
Reducing radon in your home
More information and health professional resources