

NRCS Phase 2 Knowledge Gaps

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National Radon Forum
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Knowledge gaps

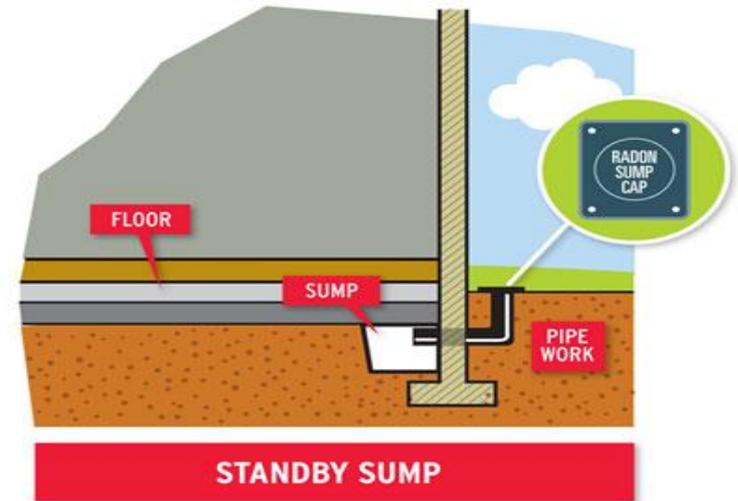
1. Improving the effectiveness of radon preventive measures and radon remedial work
2. Better targeting of measures and resources
3. Developing radon risk communication and raising awareness



Research Theme 1 – Improving the effectiveness of radon preventive measures and radon remedial work

Current radon preventive measures

- ✓ Building regulations require a standby sump required in **EVERY** new home
- ✓ In HRAs a standby sump **AND** a radon membrane are required

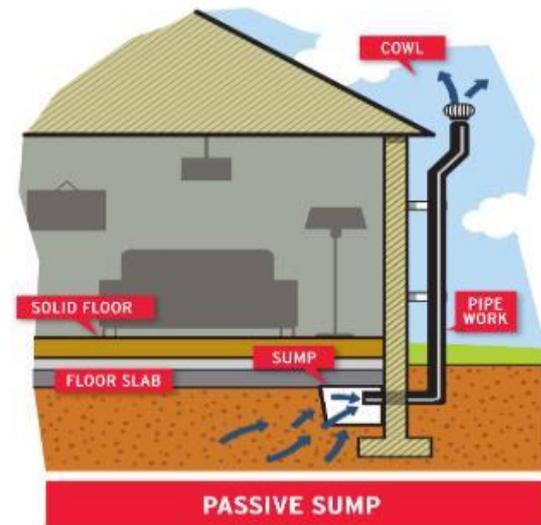


Research Theme 1 – Improving the effectiveness of radon preventive measures and radon remedial work

Research into optimum specifications for passive prevention systems

Passive prevention systems include:

- radon membrane and ancillary equipment (tapes, pre-formed corners, top hats, liquid sealants, specification for hardcore material)
- Passive sumps



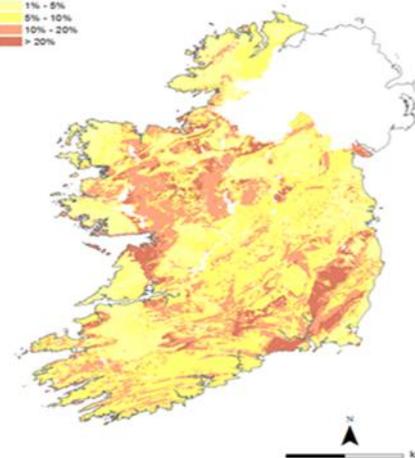
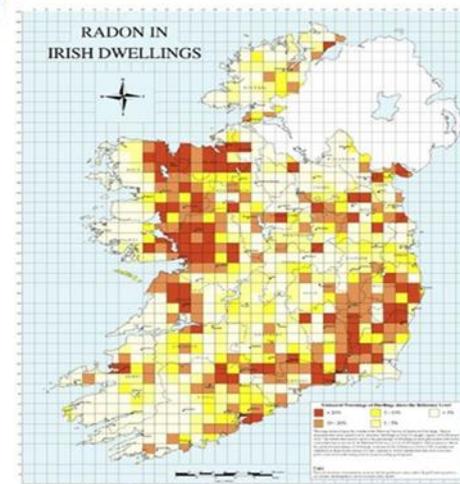
Research Theme 1 – Improving the effectiveness of radon preventive measures and radon remedial work

1. Literature review to examine current knowledge on the effectiveness of passive prevention systems
2. Field work to investigate the effectiveness of passive prevention systems in new builds
3. Effectiveness and feasibility of converting standby sumps to passive sumps



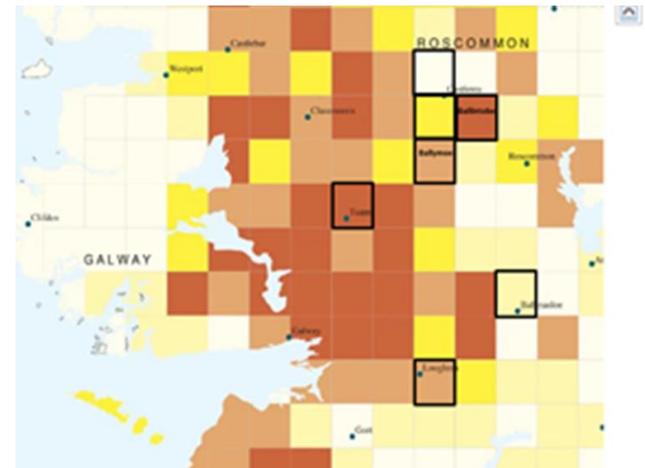
Research theme 2 – Better targeting of measures and resources

1. Complete the EPA validation of the TCD map and consider the recommendations
2. Implications of adopting a new radon risk map and communicating the change
3. Consider a programme for reviewing and updating the map with:
 - Updated geological maps
 - New radon measurement data such as data from areas known to have anomalously high levels of radon due to particular



Key achievements - Better targeting of measures and resources

- Feedback consistently says that cost is a reason for not taking action
- Research survey looking at providing financial incentives for radon testing and remediation
- 1400 invitations issued to randomly selected homes in parts of Co. Galway and Co. Roscommon
- Participants offered a free radon test and grant of 50% of the cost of remediation (max €500)



Research theme 2 – Better targeting of measures and resources

- 20% response rate observed – same as other surveys we have carried out
- 9 homes had radon levels above 200 Bq/m³ with 3 availing of the remediation grant
- Next step is to work with behavioural economists to review this study and test different ways of communicating radon testing and remediation and measure the outcomes



Research theme 2 – Better targeting of measures and resources

- Tracking the effectiveness of the NRCS through metrics
- Identifying new metrics
- Reviewing progress towards target values



Research theme 3 – Developing radon risk communication and raising awareness

- Contract of sale for homes includes 3 radon questions since January 2017
- Establish baseline levels of awareness amongst conveyancing stakeholders
- Carry out awareness work amongst these stakeholders
- Re-measure awareness levels



Law Society of Ireland



Thank you!



National Radon Control Strategy

Knowledge Gaps Phase 2

2019 - 2024

