

Understanding RADON



What is Radon and where is it found?

Radon is a chemical element with the symbol Rn and atomic number 86. It is an odorless, tasteless, invisible gas. Radon occurs due to the natural radioactive breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water and then enters the air we breathe.

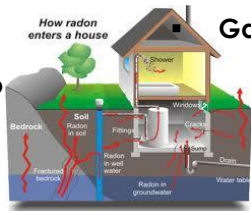
Radon can be found in all areas of the United States. It can permeate any building, whether an office, school, or home. In the US, it is estimated that 1 out of 15 homes has an elevated Radon level.

Radon levels do vary from area to area throughout the country. However, high radon levels have been found in every state.

How Does Radon Get into My Home?

Radon generally moves up through the ground to the air above and into your home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Some of the areas that Radon most typically can enter a home are:

- Cracks in solid floors
- Construction Joints
- Cracks in Walls
- Gaps in suspended floors
- Gaps around service pipes
- Cavities inside walls
- Water supply.

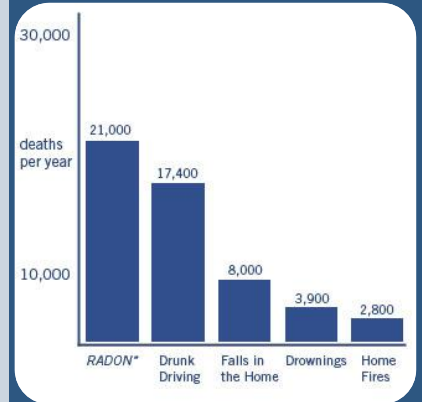


WHY IS RADON DANGEROUS?

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has estimated that radon causes thousands of deaths each year due to lung cancer.

According to the Surgeon General, Radon is second only to smoking in causing lung cancer.



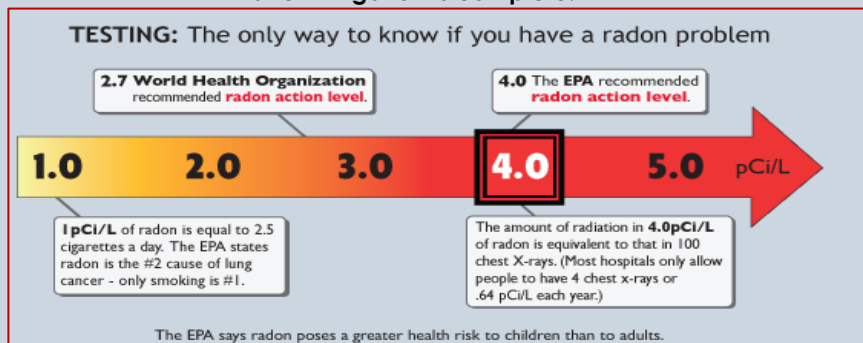
Testing For Radon

Because radon is odorless, tasteless and invisible, the only way to know for sure if it is present is to have your home tested.

Radon is generally tested by means of a radon monitor placed in the lowest livable level of the house, usually the basement.

Radon is measured in terms of picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L). The estimated average radon level for indoor air is 1.3 pCi/L and 0.4 pCi/L for outdoor air. The current EPA guideline is to have the indoor air measure lower than 4 pCi/L.

Radon levels can be lowered through mitigation systems. Testing should be repeated after mitigation is complete.



For more information on Radon:

www.epa.gov/radon

www.cancer.gov/

www.surgeongeneral.gov/news/2005/01/sg01132005.html



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