

Radon Fact Sheet

- Radon gas is odorless and colorless. It's caused by the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water and gets into the air you breathe. Radon gas typically moves up through the ground to the air above and into your home through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Your home traps radon inside, where it can build up. Radon can also enter your home through well water.
- Radon can be found all over the United States. It can get into any type of building
 — home, office, and school but you and your family are most likely to get your
 greatest exposure at home, because that's where you spend most of your time.
 Nearly one out of every 15 homes in the United States is estimated to have elevated radon levels.
- The Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States (only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths). If you smoke and your home has high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is especially high.
- The only way to know whether you have dangerous levels of radon gas in your home is to test for it.
- The EPA and the Surgeon General recommend testing all homes below the third floor for radon.
- Testing is inexpensive and easy. It should only take a few minutes of your time. There are low-cost do-it-yourself kits available on the web and at retailers, and you can also hire a trained contractor to test your home. To find a certified radon professional, contact the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Ventilation has been proven to help remove radon. Other methods may include sealing leaks in your basement and lower levels.

For more information about radon and its removal, call us at 1.800.535.3448 or visit healthyairpeople.com

Information source: A Citizen's Guide to Radon: the Guide to Protecting Yourself and Your Family from Radon (3rd ed.), Cosponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Public Health Service Office of Air and Radiation, Indoor Environments Division (6609J), EPA Document 402-K92-001, September 1992.

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