

How to Take Action to Reduce Radon Where You Live

What is radon?

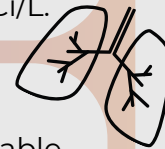
Radon is a natural, carcinogenic, odorless, tasteless, and colorless gas that enters buildings through foundation cracks.

Should Pennsylvania (PA) residents be concerned about radon?

Yes. PA has a severe radon problem. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average radon level in homes in the U.S. is 1.3 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). 40% of homes in PA have radon levels above EPA's action guideline of 4 pCi/L.

How does radon impact health?

Radon exposure has no immediate symptoms. As you breathe, radon particles get stuck in your lungs and decay. This damages lung tissue and can lead to lung cancer. Radon causes nearly 21,000 deaths per year in the U.S. and is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.



Why should I test for radon?

Testing your home for radon is the only way to know if you are at risk of high radon exposure. Radon levels can be highly variable among homes and buildings even when they are very close to each other. Your radon levels may be very different than your neighbors.



How can I test for radon?

Radon testing is easy and affordable. Test kits can be purchased at local hardware or home improvement stores for around \$20 - \$30.

What do my test results mean?

If your test shows radon levels above 4 pCi/L, confirm results with a second test. If the second test is also above 4 pCi/L, contact a professional to install a radon mitigation system. Despite this, there is no known safe level of radon, so you should work to eliminate any level of radon exposure to reduce the risk of lung cancer.

When should I test for radon?

- If radon levels are unknown
- If the home has not been tested
- Before buying or selling a home
- Before & after home renovations
- Before making home arrangement changes that include spending more time in the basement or lower level of the home (where radon levels are highest), such as converting the basement to a bedroom or office

How can I reduce radon levels at home?

- Stop smoking, especially indoors (smoking increases risk of lung cancer from radon)
- Open windows & use fans to increase air circulation
- Seal cracks in your floors and walls



Contact Us

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Where can I learn more?

- [Putting Data into Action: Radon](#)
- [Protecting Yourself and Your Family from Radon](#)
- [Radon in the Home](#)
- [Radon and Your Health](#)
- [Resources for Buyers and Sellers](#)