



What is radon?

Often called an “invisible killer,” radon is an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas that is harmful to people’s health.

Radon comes naturally from the ground. It can enter and build up inside any building without warning, cause risk to all that live inside. Fortunately, testing for radon and fixing any radon problems are quick, easy and can save residents’ lives.

Radon and Lung Cancer

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Although radon exposure causes no immediate symptoms, the long-term threat of lung cancer is very real. Radon can cause lung cancer in anyone—even those who have never smoked. If you also smoke and are exposed to radon, your risk is even higher.

How Does Radon Get Inside?

In nearly all cases, radon gets into homes, schools and other buildings in a few ways:

- Gaps and cracks in the foundation
- Joints connecting walls and floors
- Pipes, sumps, drains, walls and other openings

Is Radon a Problem in My Home?

Any home can have a radon problem. This means new and old homes, well-sealed and drafty homes, homes with or without basements, and even apartments. In fact, more than 1 in 15 homes have elevated levels of radon. Even if your neighbors have low radon levels, yours could still be high. High levels of radon have been found in every state.

Because radon is odorless and colorless, the only way to know if there is a problem in your home or building is by testing the radon level. The American Lung Association, the EPA and the Surgeon General recommend testing ALL homes for radon. There are many low-cost, do-it yourself radon test kits available at hardware stores, other retail outlets and online directly from qualified laboratories. You can also hire a trained contractor to do the testing for you.

What Can I Do About Radon in My Home?

If a radon test shows you have a high level of radon in your home or building (4 pCi/L or more), take action! Even if radon levels are between 2 and 4 pCi/L, the EPA and the Lung Association agree that radon reduction should be considered.

You can reduce indoor radon levels. This usually involves properly sealing openings between the building and the ground and changing the flow of soil gas into your home. Repairs should be completed by a licensed or certified contractor. Contact your state radon program to find a qualified professional in your area.

For More Information

To learn more about radon and how to protect yourself, or to purchase a test kit, visit the American Lung Association at [Lung.org/radon](https://www.lung.org/radon).