Test Your Home for Radon

Testing is easy and low-cost — and it could save your life.

You can't see radon gas. You can't smell it. But it's dangerous. Breathing in high levels of radon can raise your risk of lung cancer.

Testing your home is the only way to find out if you have a radon problem.
If you do, then you can fix it.

Why is radon dangerous?

Radon comes naturally from rocks and dirt in the ground. There's always some radon in the air around us. The problem is when radon gas from underneath a home leaks in through cracks or gaps. Too much of it can build up inside.

1 out of 15
homes has high radon levels*
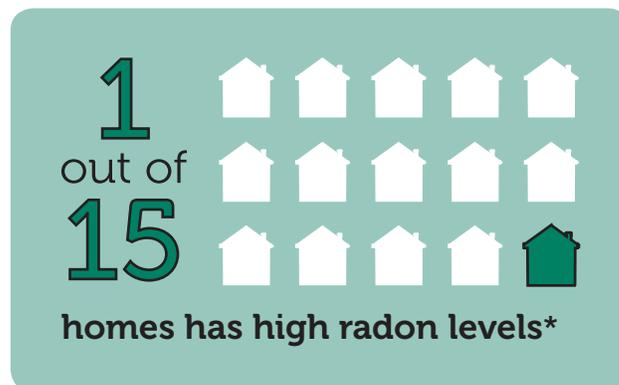
When you breathe in radon gas, particles can get trapped in your lungs. Over time, they can cause lung cancer. The risks from radon depend on two things:

- **How much:** High radon levels are more dangerous.

- **How long:** The more contact you have with radon gas, the greater your risk.

After cigarette smoking, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer deaths in the United States. Radon causes about 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year.*

Tobacco and Radon

Smoking and radon exposure each increase the risk of lung cancer, and the combination increases the risk even more.

People who smoke and live in homes with high radon levels have a risk of lung cancer that is 10 times higher than people who do not smoke and live in homes with high radon levels.

Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or visit CDC.gov/quit for free support and resources to help you quit smoking.

*Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

National Center for Environmental Health
Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects

CDC

Any home can have a radon problem.

High radon levels can be a risk anywhere in any state. Both old homes and new homes can have radon problems. So can homes with basements and homes without them. And 2 houses right next-door to each other could have very different radon levels.

That's why it's so important for **every home** to get tested.

Test Your Home

The good news is that testing your home for radon is easy. You can do it yourself or hire someone to do it for you.

- **Get a radon test kit.** Contact your state radon office for resources in your area. You can either hire a radon tester or purchase a radon test kit from your state radon office, a hardware store, or calling 1-800-SOS-Radon.

- **Set up the testing device to check the air for radon.** Depending on the type of test, it may take just a few days or many months to finish the test.

- **Send the device to a lab** and wait for the results.

Radon can build up in groundwater. Groundwater is the source used in private wells and in some public water supplies. If you have questions about radon in your home water supply, contact your state radon office or public health department.
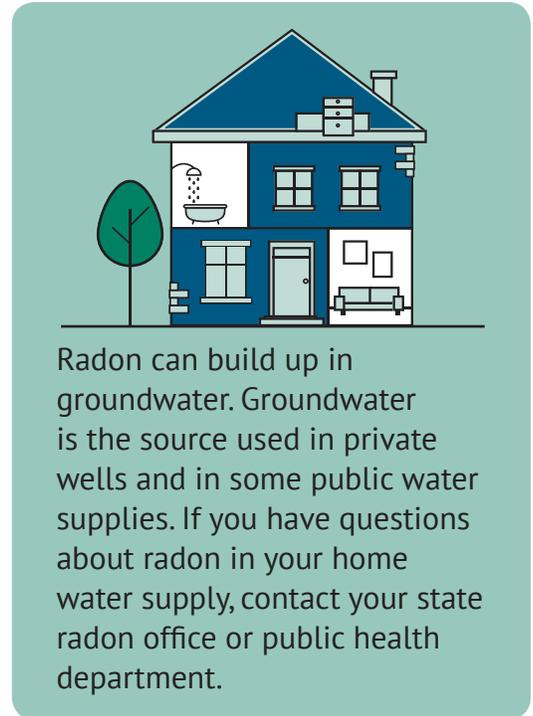
If your test results show a radon level of **4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or higher**, test your home again. If the second test is also high, you need to fix the problem.

If You Have High Radon Levels, Take Action

Finding out that your home has high radon levels can be scary. But you can make your home safer. Here's how:

- **Contact your state radon office** for advice and to find a specialist — called a mitigation contractor — to fix your home.

- **Test your home again after repairs are made.**

Radon in your home can be a serious health risk — but it's a problem you can fix. **If you haven't tested your home for radon, get a test kit now.**

Learn More About Radon: Visit www.cdc.gov/radon