

## **Radon Questions & Answers**

### **Q: What is Radon?**

A: Radon comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water. The release of this radioactive gas enters the air you breathe, causing a potential health risk to you and your family. Radon gas can be found in just about anywhere. It can get into any type of building -- homes, offices, and schools -- and build up to high levels. A home that is closed can trap the radon gas increasing your exposure.

### **Q: How long should a test for radon take?**

A: A short term test is 48 hours up to 90 days. A long term test is 90 days or more.

### **Q: What is an acceptable level of radon for a home?**

A: The lowest acceptable level of radon is less than 4 pCi/l per industry standards and the EPA.

### **Q: Who can test for radon?**

A: All radon testers and devices should be approved by a state or national proficiency program.

### **Q: What's the Health Risk?**

A:\* Radon is estimated to cause about 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year, according to. The numbers of deaths from other causes are taken from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 1999-2001 National Center on Injury Prevention and Control Report and 2002 National Safety Council Reports.

### **Q: How Does Radon Enter the Home?**

A: Typically the air pressure inside your home is lower than the pressure in the soil around your home's foundation.

Due to this difference, your house acts like a vacuum, drawing radon gas in through foundation cracks and other openings of your home. Radon may also be present in well water and can be released into the air in your home when water is used for showering and other household uses.

Potential Entry Points:

1. Cavities inside walls
2. Cracks in solid floors
3. Construction joints
4. Cracks in walls
5. The water supply
6. Gaps in suspended floors
7. Gaps around service pipes

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html>

**Q: If Radon is found in the home, how do I get rid of it?**

A: EPA recommends that you take action to reduce your home's indoor radon levels if your radon test result is 4 pCi/L or higher.

If elevated levels are found during the real estate transaction, the buyer and seller should discuss the timing and costs of the radon reduction. The cost of making repairs to reduce radon levels depends on how your home was built and other factors. Most homes can be fixed for about the same cost as other common home repairs, like painting or having a new hot water heater installed. The average cost for a contractor to lower radon levels in a home can range from \$800 to about \$2,500.