

What is radon?

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas that you cannot see, smell or taste. However, nearly 1 in 15 homes in the U.S. are estimated to have elevated levels of radon, and it may cause a problem in your home. Radon gas comes from the natural decay of uranium in rocks and soil. When this gas escapes into open air, it is harmless, but when radon gas seeps into a home's living or working areas, it can accumulate and become a deadly threat. If you have well water, radon in the water can enter into the living areas by escaping into the air when faucets and showers are in use. Radon is the nation's second leading cause of lung cancer, estimated to cause 21,000 deaths per year. The following U.S. Environmental Protection Agency charts show the relative risk of cancer from radon.

RADON RISK IF YOU SMOKE

Radon Level	If 1,000 people who smoked were exposed to this level over a lifetime...*	The risk of cancer from radon exposure compares to...*	WHAT TO DO: Stop Smoking and...
20 pCi/L	About 260 people could get lung cancer	← 250 times the risk of drowning	Fix your home
10 pCi/L	About 150 people could get lung cancer	← 200 times the risk of dying in a home fire	Fix your home
8 pCi/L	About 120 people could get lung cancer	← 30 times the risk of dying in a fall	Fix your home
4 pCi/L	About 62 people could get lung cancer	← 5 times the risk of dying in an airplane crash	Fix your home
2 pCi/L	About 32 people could get lung cancer	← 6 times the risk of dying from poison	Consider fixing between 2 and 4 pCi/L
1.3 pCi/L	About 20 people could get lung cancer	(Average indoor radon level)	(Reducing radon levels below 2 pCi/L is difficult)
0.4 pCi/L		(Average outdoor radon level)	

Note: * If you are a former smoker, your risk may be lower.

RADON RISK IF YOU HAVE NEVER SMOKED

Radon Level	If 1,000 people who never smoked were exposed to this level over a lifetime...*	The risk of cancer from radon exposure compares to...*	WHAT TO DO:
20 pCi/L	About 36 people could get lung cancer	← 35 times the risk of drowning	Fix your home
10 pCi/L	About 18 people could get lung cancer	← 20 times the risk of dying in a home fire	Fix your home
8 pCi/L	About 15 people could get lung cancer	← 4 times the risk of dying in fall	Fix your home
4 pCi/L	About 7 people could get lung cancer	← The risk of dying a car crash	Fix your home
2 pCi/L	About 4 people could get lung cancer	← The risk of dying from poison	Consider fixing between 2 and 4 pCi/L
1.3 pCi/L	About 2 people could get lung cancer	(Average indoor radon level)	(Reducing radon levels below 2 pCi/L is difficult)
0.4 pCi/L		(Average outdoor radon level)	

Note: *If you are a former smoker, your risk may be higher.

It's never too late to reduce your risk of lung cancer. Don't wait to test and fix a radon problem. If you are a smoker, stop smoking.

What to do about radon

The EPA recommends taking action on your home if you have two short-term tests where the average value is 4 pCi/L or greater. Further, they recommend that you consider taking action on your home if the radon levels are between 2 and 4 pCi/L. The radon test that you have submitted to our laboratory is considered a short-term test. An average of two tests above the level of 4 pCi/L should make you consider fixing your home. If you have well water, it is recommended that the water also be tested for radon. The EPA feels that simple solutions to radon problems exist and that airborne radon levels can be readily lowered for about \$500 to \$2500.

Several methods can be used to lower the radon levels in your home, and the right system depends on the design of a home and other factors.

Lowering radon levels requires technical knowledge and special skill. You should use a contractor that is certified and / or licensed to fix radon problems. If you would like more information on how to reduce your radon levels and find a certified / licensed radon contractor, please contact a PRO-LAB customer service representative at 800-427-0550.

Remember to test your home again if you have undertaken repairs (mitigation) to reduce the radon level. It is important that the radon levels are lower after repairs have been completed.

For more information on how to reduce radon risks, request these booklets from your state radon agency:
Home Buyer's and Seller's Guide to Radon
Radon in Schools
Radon: A Physician's Guide
Consumer Guide to Radon Reduction

STATE RADON AGENCIES

Alabama	334-206-5368	Montana	800-546-0483
Alaska	800-478-8324	Nebraska	800-334-9491
Arkansas	800-482-8988	Nevada	775-687-5394x275
Arizona	602-255-4845	N. Hampshire	800-852-3345x4610
California	800-745-7236	New Jersey	800-648-0394
Colorado	800-846-3986	New Mexico	505-827-1093
Connecticut	860-509-7367	New York	800-458-1158x27556
Delaware	800-464-4357	N. Carolina	919-571-4141
D.C.	202-535-2999	North Dakota	701-328-5188
Florida	800-543-8279	Ohio	800-523-4439
Georgia	800-745-0037	Oklahoma	405-702-5162
Hawaii	808-586-4700	Oregon	503-731-4014x669
Idaho	800-445-8647	Pennsylvania	800-237-2366
Illinois	800-325-1245	Puerto Rico	787-274-7815
Indiana	800-272-9723	Rhode Island	401-222-7795
Iowa	800-383-5992	S. Carolina	800-768-0362
Kansas	800-693-5343	South Dakota	800-438-3367
Kentucky	502-564-4856	Tennessee	800-232-1139
Louisiana	888-293-7020	Texas	800-293-0753
Maine	800-232-0842	Utah	800-458-0145
Maryland	215-814-2086	Vermont	802-865-7742
Massachusetts	800-723-6695	Virginia	800-468-0138
Michigan	800-732-6642	Washington	360-236-3253
Minnesota	800-798-9050	W. Virginia	800-922-1255
Mississippi	800-626-7739	Wisconsin	888-569-7236
Missouri	866-628-9891	Wyoming	800-458-5847

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RADON, RADON TESTING, AND RADON REDUCTION, PLEASE CONTACT A PRO-LAB CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE AT 800-427-0550.