



Home Tips®



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Q & A

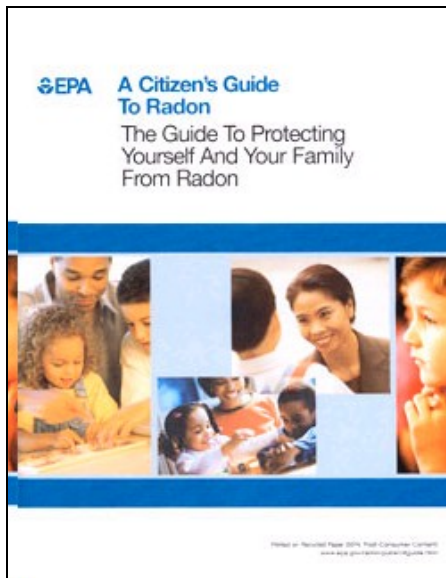
Radon?

What is radon and where does it come from?

EPA has an excellent pamphlet called "A Citizen's Guide To Radon". The following is a synopsis of the brochure:

Radon Is A Cancer Causing, Radioactive Gas.

You can't see radon and you can't smell it or taste it.



However, it may be a problem in your home. Radon is estimated to cause many thousands of deaths each year. That's because when you breathe air containing radon, you can get lung cancer. In fact, the Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States

today. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths.

Radon Can Be Found All Over The U.S.

Radon comes from the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water and gets into the air you breathe. Radon can be found all over the U.S. It can get into any type of building - homes, offices, and schools - and result in a high indoor radon level. But you and your family are most likely to get your greatest exposure at home where you spend most of your time.

You Should Test For Radon.

Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon. EPA and the Surgeon General recommend testing all homes below the third floor for radon.

Testing is inexpensive and easy - it should only take a few minutes of your time. Millions of Americans have already tested their homes for radon.

You Can Fix A Radon Problem.

Radon reduction systems work, and they are not too costly. Some radon reduction systems can reduce radon levels in your home by up to 99%. Even very high levels can be

reduced to acceptable levels. The cost of reducing radon in your home depends on how your home was built and the extent of the radon problem. Most homes can be fixed for about the same cost as other common home repairs. The average house costs about \$1,200 for a contractor to fix although this can range from about \$800 to about \$2,500.

How Does Radon Get Into Your Home?

Radon is a radioactive gas. It comes from the natural decay of uranium that is found in nearly all soils. It typically moves



up through the ground to the air above and into your home through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Your home traps radon inside where it can build up. Any home may have a radon problem. This means new and old homes, well-sealed and drafty homes, and homes with or without basements.

Radon Gets In Through:

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

How To Test Your Home

You can't see radon, but it's not hard to find out if you have a radon problem in your home. All you need to do is test for radon. The amount of radon in the air is measured in "picoCuries per liter of air," or "pCi/L."

There Are Two General Ways To Test For Radon:

1. Short Term Testing

The quickest way to test is with short-term tests. Short-term

