

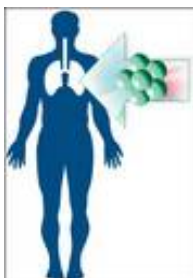
## What Is Radon?

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that comes from various rocks, soils, and underground water sources. Radon gives off radiation from the natural breakdown of uranium and gets into the air you breathe.

Radon is colorless, tasteless and odorless. It's a silent killer, since people can't tell if they're being exposed. When you breathe air containing radon, you may increase your risk of getting lung cancer.

## How Do We Know Radon Causes Cancer?

The World Health Organization (WHO), the National Academy of Sciences, the US Department of Health and Human Services, as well as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), have classified radon as a known human carcinogen, because of the wealth of scientific evidence and data showing the connection between exposure to radon and lung cancer in humans.



Unfortunately, the human body does not produce symptoms or warning signs to alert us when being exposed to radiation. Radon causes cancer, but does not cause headaches, nausea or other feelings of ill health. Most people won't know they have cancer until they hear it from their doctor. The only way to know if your family is being exposed is to test.

## How Does Radon Enter My Home?

Radon may enter a home anywhere there is an opening between the home and the soil. It moves up through the ground to the air above and into your home through cracks and other holes in the foundations. These openings include floor drains, sumps, foundation cracks, and many more. Your home traps radon inside where it can build up. Any home can have a radon problem. This means new and old homes, well-sealed and drafty homes and homes with or without basements.



## How Is Radon Measured?

Radon is measured in pico-Curies per liter of air (pCi/L), a standard unit used worldwide for radiation to measure the number of radioactive explosions that occur within 1 liter of air every 60 seconds. It was named after Madam Curie.

## How Do I Tell If Radon Is In My Home?

Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Millions of Americans have already tested their homes for radon.

## How Do I Test?

If you've never tested your home before, it is recommended that you start with a short-term charcoal test. The test remains in your home for two days, is mailed to a lab and the results are returned to you. (See back of this brochure for information about obtaining a short-term radon test kit.)

Don't mistake your smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector for a radon detector. The ONLY way to test your home for radon is with a radon testing kit.

## Can I Fix A Radon Problem?

There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. 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, ranging from \$800 to \$2,500. The cost is much less if Radon-Resistant Construction features were installed while your home was built.

## Other Radon Facts

- Radon is naturally occurring, just like earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes and lightning. On average, radon kills more people every year than all of these combined.
- Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of lung cancer.

- On average, residential fires kill 2,100 Americans every year and carbon monoxide deaths in the home average 235 per year. Over 21,000 deaths annually can be attributed to cancer caused by radon.
- The style, structure or age of your home has very little to do with radon entry. All structures have negative pressures in the lower half of the building so no particular style of home is more or less likely to have a radon problem.
- Serious radon problems have been found in every state.
- Homes with radon problems CAN be fixed. Any home can be fixed and the higher the radon level, the faster you should have it fixed.
- It's never too late to reduce your risk of lung cancer caused by radon.
- Children are more sensitive to radon because their lungs are smaller and their respiratory rates are twice as high.

**Radon is real.  
Radon can increase the risk of lung  
cancer.  
Check your home's radon level  
TODAY!**

## Radon Information and Testing

Polk County is the Radon Information Center (RIC) for Burnett, Douglas, Polk and Washburn Counties. We provide education, technical support and testing kits to Polk County residents. Our goal is to test all homes in Polk County.

For more information or to order a short-term test kit, visit our website at [www.polkcountyhealthdept.org](http://www.polkcountyhealthdept.org) or call 715-485-8500.

Short-term test kits are also available at the Polk County Health Department.



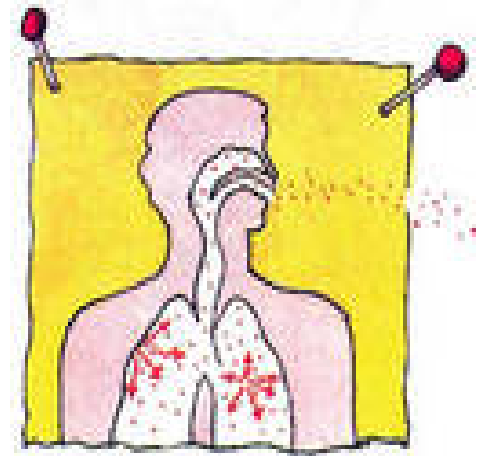
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# RADON

# AWARENESS



***Are You Being Exposed  
To Cancer Causing  
Radon?***

**Protecting your family is easy...**

- 1. Learn The Facts**
- 2. Test Your Home**
- 3. If A Problem Is Found, Fix It**

