

Protect Your Home from Radon

Facts

- Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas produced by the decay of uranium and radium in the soil. Radon has no color, taste or odor.
- Radon can enter your home from the surrounding soil and accumulate in living areas, especially during the winter months, when homes are sealed and insulated against the cold.
- Radon typically accumulates in basements and other areas that are in direct contact with the soil.
- Exposure to radon over an extended period of time may increase your long-term risk of developing lung cancer. Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer deaths nationwide. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has estimated that 21,000 people a year die of lung cancer caused by radon.
- Radon levels are measured in picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L). If radon levels in your home exceed the EPA action level of 4.0 pCi/L, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommends steps be taken to reduce your radon exposure.
- Testing done in Minnesota suggests that roughly one out of every three homes may exceed the EPA guideline for radon. MDH has officially recommended that all homes in the state be tested for radon.

Safe Behavior

- The first step in protecting yourself against radon is to have your home tested. There are inexpensive testing devices readily available from reputable radon laboratories. These test devices provide quick radon test results. Follow the directions that come with the test kit. Contact MDH or your local city or county health department for discounted radon test kits.
- If the radon level in your home does exceed the EPA action level, the problem can be easily corrected. The best way to reduce radon in your home is by altering the pressure differences between your home and the soil. This is best accomplished by contacting a qualified radon contractor to install a radon mitigation system in your home. More detailed information about reducing radon levels in your home is available from MDH.

Additional Materials

- **Minnesota Department of Health**
 - [Radon in Minnesota Homes](#)
 - [Minnesota Radon Testing and Test Results](#)
 - [Radon Mitigation Service Providers](#)
 - [Gold Standard for Radon Resistant New Construction](#)
 - [Healthy Homes](#)
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**
 - [A Citizen's Guide To Radon - The Guide To Protecting Yourself And Your Family From Radon](#)
 - [Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction - How to Reduce Radon Levels in Your Home](#)
 - [Home Buyer's and Seller's Guide to Radon](#)
 - [Radon-Resistant New Construction](#)

Contact

Minnesota Department of Health

Indoor Air Program

Phone: 651-201-4601 or 800-798-9050

Web site: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/air/index.htm>