

# Does Your Home Have a Radon Problem?

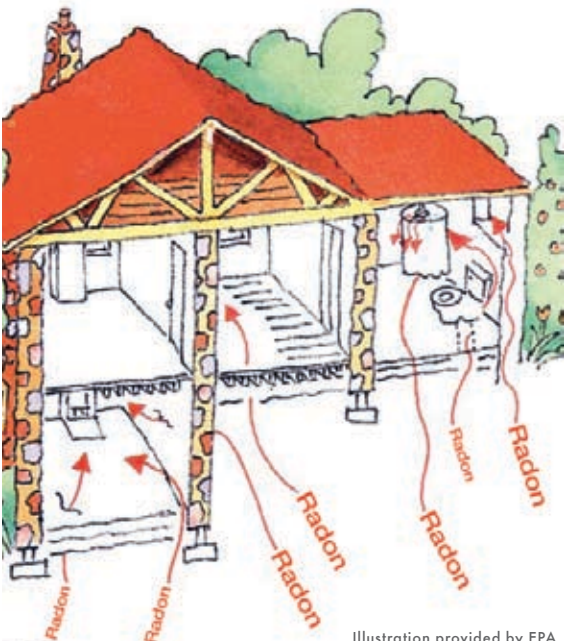


Illustration provided by EPA.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control



## For More Information:

**S.C. DHEC**  
 Radon Hotline: (800) 768-0362  
 Or (864) 241-1095  
 Radon Web site: <http://www.scdhec.gov/radon>  
 Email: [radon@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:radon@dhec.sc.gov)

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**  
 Radon Hotline: (800) SOS-RADON (767-7236)  
 Radon Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/radon>

For certified contractors contact:  
 National Radon Safety Board  
<http://www.nrsb.org>

National Environmental Health Association  
<http://www.radongas.org>



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Radon Level <sup>a</sup>	Lifetime Risk of Lung Cancer Death (per person) from Radon Exposure in Homes <sup>b</sup>		
pCi/l	Never Smokers	Current Smokers <sup>c</sup>	General Population
20	36 out of 1,000	26 out of 100	11 out of 100
10	18 out of 1,000	15 out of 100	56 out of 1,000
8	15 out of 1,000	12 out of 100	45 out of 1,000
4	73 out of 10,000	62 out of 1,000	23 out of 1,000
2	37 out of 10,000	32 out of 1,000	12 out of 1,000
1.25	23 out of 10,000	20 out of 1,000	73 out of 10,000
.4	73 out of 100,000	64 out of 10,000	23 out of 10,000

a. Assumes constant lifetime exposure in homes at these levels.  
 b. Estimates are subject to uncertainties as discussed in Chapter VIII of the risk assessment.  
 c. Note: Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR) VI Report did not specify excess relative risks for current smokers.

Table provided by EPA.

**SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING:**  
**Radon Causes Lung Cancer. You Should Test Your Home.**

The U.S. Surgeon General recommends that your home be tested for Radon. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. If you have never smoked, Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer. Radon is an invisible radioactive gas that seeps into your home from underground, and the only way you can tell if you have dangerous levels of Radon in your home is to test for it. Radon problems can be easily fixed. For testing information, call or visit:

1-800-SOS-RADON [www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon)





indoor radon levels. However, you are most likely to get your greatest exposure at home since that is where you spend most of your time.



Illustration provided by EPA.

Radon is a risk because it decays into radioactive particles that can get trapped in your lungs when you breathe. These particles break down and release small bursts of energy that can damage lung tissue and lead to lung cancer. Your chances of getting lung cancer from radon depend mostly on how much radon is in your home, the amount of time you spend in your home, and if you smoke or have ever smoked.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has an action level of 4 Pico Curies per liter (pCi/L). This means you should install radon reduction systems in your home if the radon level is 4 pCi/L or higher. Radon reduction systems are installed by qualified professionals and are not very expensive. In fact, some systems can reduce radon levels in your home by up to 99 percent. Levels below 4 pCi/L also can pose a health risk and in many cases can be reduced. You can reduce your risk of lung cancer by lowering your radon levels.

## Radon Facts

- Radon is a cancer-causing, natural, radioactive gas.
- Radon causes more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the U.S.
- Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers.
- Radon can be found all over the U.S., including South Carolina.
- Radon levels as high as 70.0 pCi/L and higher have been found in South Carolina.
- Nearly one out of every 15 homes in the U.S. is estimated to have elevated radon levels.

## Radon Risks

Radon is a natural, radioactive gas. It forms when uranium breaks down in soil, rock and water. You can't see, smell or taste radon. It gets into the air you breathe indoors, primarily from soil under your home and other buildings.

Radon can get into any type of building (homes, offices and schools), which can cause high

## What You Can Do



The only way to know if you have a radon problem is to test your home. Testing for radon is easy, inexpensive and only takes a few minutes.

Radon test kits can be purchased at home improvement stores, or a certified radon tester can be hired. **FREE** test kits are available from DHEC. To order one, call the S.C. Radon Hotline at (800) 768-0362 or (864) 241-1090. Or send an email to [radon@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:radon@dhec.sc.gov).

**Protect Your Family  
Have Your Home Tested For  
Radon Today!**