

RADON GAS

What Are The Health Effects Of Radon?



Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of cancer in the U.S. Radon can be inhaled into the lungs, where it undergoes radioactive decay. As it decays, radon releases tiny bursts of energy called alpha particles, which can harm sensitive lung tissue by damaging the DNA. This damaged DNA can lead to lung cancer.

Where Is Radon Found?

The primary source of high levels of radon in homes is the surrounding soil. Radon has been found in elevated levels in homes in every state. The EPA estimates that as many as one in fifteen homes across the U.S. have elevated radon levels.

How Does Radon Get Into My House?

Warm air rises. When this happens in your home, it creates a vacuum in the lower areas. Nature abhors a vacuum, so something must rush in to fill it. In the case of your home, air seeps in from soil around and under the house and some air is sucked in through openings (cracks, doors or windows) on the lower levels. Radon gas enters the same way air and other soil gases enter the home: through cracks in the foundation, floor or walls, hollow-block walls and openings around floor drains, pipes and sump pumps.



DON'T WAIT! TEST YOUR HOME FOR RADON TODAY

**Free test kits are available
for District Residents:**

**Call the District Radon Hotline at
(202) 535-2302**

or

visit: ddoe.dc.gov/radon

**Testing is easy Testing is safe
Testing is free!**

Radon coordinators are also available for
presentations at ANC, civic and
community organization meetings.

★ ★ ★ **DEPARTMENT
OF ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENT**

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

