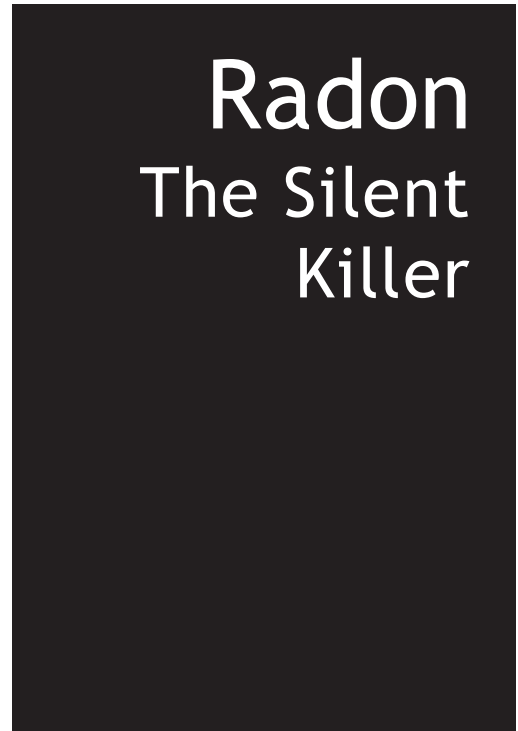




YOUR HOME POSES THE GREATEST RISK TO YOUR HEALTH



Radon and Health

What is Radon?

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas. It has no smell, color or taste. Radon is produced from the natural radioactive decay of uranium which is found in all earthly soils.

Radon escapes easily from the ground and into the air where it decays and produces further radioactive particles. As we breathe, the particles are deposited on the cells lining the airways, where they can damage DNA and potentially cause lung cancer.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer next to smoking and the number one cause among non-smokers. The chances of contracting lung cancer from radon are based on two factors: radon level and exposure time. The higher the concentration, the greater the risk to your health. The same principle can be used when considering exposure time. Being exposed to a high level of radon over the course of 10-15 years will greatly increase the chances of contracting lung cancer.

Radon in Homes

For most people, the greatest exposure to radon occurs in the home. The concentration of radon in a home depends on:

1. The amount of uranium in the soil;
2. The routes available for passage from the soil into the home; and
3. The rate of exchange between indoor and outdoor air, which depends on the construction of the home, ventilation habits, and air tightness of the home.

Radon enters homes through cracks in the floor or at wall junctions, gaps around pipes, cracks around plumbing, drains, or sumps. Radon is always at its highest level in the basement. Concentrations can also vary between homes depending on these factors.

Reducing Radon in Homes

The EPA recommends one simple solution.

“Test, Fix, Save a Life”.



DEP Radon Division

The Radon Division helps to ensure public health and safety by increasing public and professional awareness of radon and its health risks by administration of a certification program for radon testing, mitigation and laboratory analysis individuals and firms.

5 things you should know about RADON:

- It's the #1 cause of lung cancer in non-smokers in the U.S.
- It's found everywhere in Pennsylvania.
- Testing is the only way to know if your home is at risk.
- Testing is easy and inexpensive.
- 40 % of Pa. homes have radon levels above recommended safe levels.

For more information visit
www.dep.pa.gov/radon or call
1.800.23.RADON.

Pennsylvania has one of the most serious radon problems in the country.