

Facts about Radon:

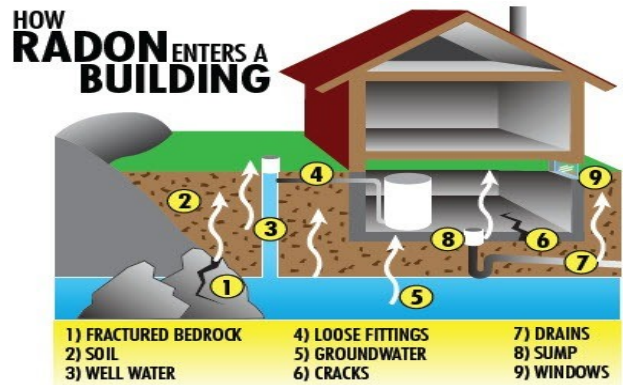
- * Elevated radon levels are found throughout North Carolina
- * Radon is radioactive
- * Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking
- * Radon is the leading cause of cancer in non-smokers
- * Radon is responsible for 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year
- * There are no immediate symptoms of radon exposure
- * Radon is present both indoors and outdoors
- * Radon can build up in any building, not just homes
- * Radon reduction systems work well and are not very costly

What is Radon?

Radon comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, sand and water and gets into the air you breathe. In North Carolina, uranium is naturally found in our geological formations. You can take steps to reduce and control the amount of radon in your home such as testing ceiling cracks and installing radon reduction systems.

How does Radon Enter a Home?

In some homes, the difference in air pressure between the inside of the home and the soil outside of the home causes a force like a vacuum that draws radon into the home through cracks in the foundation or other openings (like gaps around pipes or joints). Because radon cannot be seen and has no odor, it is important to test your home for radon. The EPA recommends testing for radon in your home every 2 years as part of routine home maintenance.



Renter's Radon Checklist

To meet the responsibility to provide tenants habitable rentals, landlords must address radon problems that occur in rental properties.

If you reside in a rental property, contact your landlord or property manager to discuss any indoor air quality concerns.

- * Find out whether the building you live in has been tested for radon.
- * If your building has not been tested for radon, ask the building owner to test, or test your own apartment or house.
- * Follow the instructions included in your radon test kit. If your short-term test shows radon levels above 4 pCi/L, EPA recommends doing a follow-up test.
- * If your test shows radon levels above 4 pCi/L, notify the building owner of the test results in writing. Discuss with the owner the need for additional testing and radon reduction repairs.
- * If you have high radon levels or if you need additional information and assistance about radon testing and radon repairs, contact your state radon office, the National Radon Helpline or other organizations that work on radon or housing issues. See below for contact information.

Additional Information

For more information on how to reduce and/or control the amount of radon in your home, visit:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-12/documents/2016_a_citizens_guide_to_radon.pdf

The NC Radon Program received funds from the U.S. EPA to give away 3,000 short-term radon test kits beginning in January 2021 - one test kit per household. When this supply of free kits have been exhausted, you may order a test kit at www.sosradon.org. For more information, please contact 919-814-2290, visit: <http://www.ncradon.org/Home.html>, or contact the NC DHHS Radon Coordinator, Phillip Gibson at 828-712-0972 or phillip.gibson@dhhs.nc.gov

For more information on well water testing, please visit the Union County Septic Systems, Wells & Water Protection website at:

<https://www.unioncountync.gov/departments/environmental-health/septic-systems-and-wells>

National Radon Hotline (English): (800) 557-2366

National Radon Hotline (En Español) (866) 528-3187

National Radon Fix-It Line: For general information on fixing or reducing the radon level in your home, call 1 (800) 644-6999