

## *Have you ever heard of Radon?*

**Radon is estimated to cause thousands of lung cancer deaths each year.**

**It is a radioactive, colorless, odorless, tasteless noble gas. You can't see radon. And you can't smell it or taste it. But it may be a problem in your home.**

**Radon is estimated to cause many thousands of deaths each year. That's because when you breathe air containing radon, you can get lung cancer. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths. If you smoke and your home has high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is especially high.**

**Radon comes from the natural radioactive breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water and gets into the air you breathe. Radon can be found all over the country. It can get into any type of building — homes, offices, and schools — and result in a high indoor radon level. But you and your family are most likely to get your greatest exposure at home, where you spend most of your time.**



**Radon comes from the natural decay of uranium that is found in nearly all soils. It typically moves up through the ground to the air above and into your home through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Your home traps radon inside, where it can build up. Any home may have a radon problem. This means**

**new and old homes, well-sealed and drafty homes, and homes with or without basements.**

**Radon from soil gas is the main cause of radon problems**



## ***RADON GETS IN THROUGH:***

- 1. Cracks in solid floors***
- 2. Construction joints***
- 3. Cracks in walls***
- 4. Gaps in suspended floors***
- 5. Gaps around service pipes***
- 6. Cavities inside walls***

## *7. The water supply*

**. Sometimes radon enters the home through well water . In a small number of homes, the building materials can give off radon, too. However, building materials rarely cause radon problems by themselves.**

### *Radon in Water*

**There are two main sources for the radon in your home's indoor air, the soil and the water supply. Compared to radon entering the home through water, radon entering your home through the soil is usually a much larger risk.**

**The radon in your water supply poses an inhalation risk and an ingestion risk. Research has shown that your risk of lung cancer from breathing radon in air is much larger than your risk of stomach cancer from swallowing water with radon in it. Most of your risk from radon in water comes from radon released into the air when water is used for showering and other household purposes.**

**Radon in your home's water is not usually a problem when its source is surface water. A radon in water problem is more likely when its source is ground water, e.g. a private well or a public water supply system that uses ground water. If you are concerned that radon may be entering your home through the water and your water comes from a public water supply, contact your water supplier.**

**If you've tested the air in your home and found a radon problem, and your water comes from a well, have your water tested.**

**There are several proven methods to reduce radon in your home, but the one primarily used is a vent pipe system and fan, which pulls radon from beneath the house and vents it to the outside. This system, known as a soil suction radon reduction system, does not require major changes to your home. Sealing foundation cracks and other openings makes this kind of system more effective and cost-efficient. Similar systems can also be installed in houses with crawl spaces.**

## *The Risk of Living With Radon*

**Scientists are more certain about radon risks than from most other cancer-causing substances.**

**Radon gas decays into radioactive particles that can get trapped in your lungs when you breathe. As they break down further, these particles release small bursts of energy. This can damage lung tissue and lead to lung cancer over the course of your lifetime. Not everyone exposed to elevated levels of radon will develop lung cancer. And the amount of time between exposure and the onset of the disease may be many years.**

**Like other environmental pollutants, there is some uncertainty about the magnitude of radon health risks. However, we know more about radon risks than risks from most other cancer-causing substances. This is because estimates of radon risks are based on studies of cancer in humans (underground miners).**

**Smoking combined with radon is an especially serious health risk. Stop smoking and lower your radon level to reduce your lung cancer risk.**

**Children have been reported to have greater risk than adults of certain types of cancer from radiation, but there are currently no conclusive data on whether children are at greater risk than adults from radon.**

**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**
- **Whether you are a smoker or have ever smoked**

***SO YOU HAVE ANOTHER REASON TO GIVE UP SMOKING***