

RADON

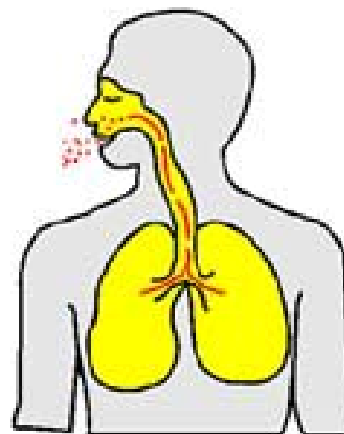
Radon

2nd Leading Cause of Lung Cancer

Radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil and rock. Radon is a naturally occurring gas. Most homes have some amount of radon present. You cannot see, smell, or taste radon. **Radon is prevalent in Kentucky.**

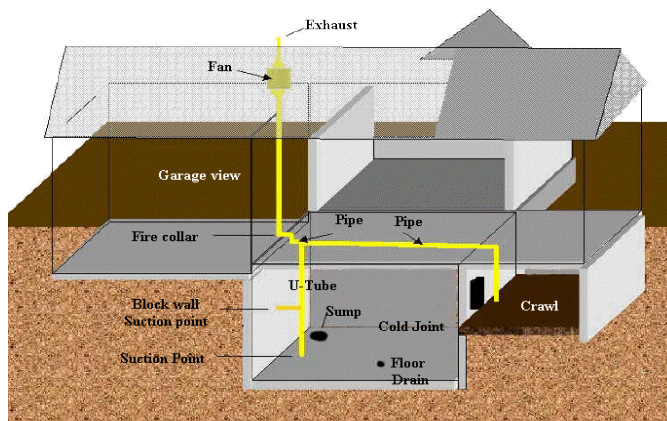
Radon is a class **A** known human carcinogen. Alpha particles from the radon decay products can damage lung tissue. Lung cancer is the main health effect from radon exposure.

The only way to determine the concentration of Radon in a house is to test. The acceptable level is **4 pCi/L and below**. pCi/L stands for picocuries per liter, the most popular method of reporting radon levels in the United States. All homes can be mitigated and the radon levels lowered to safe levels.



How Radon Enters Your Home

- Cracks in the floor
- Construction joints
- Cracks in walls
- Gaps in suspended floors
- Openings in service pipes
- Cavities inside walls
- Water supply



Additional Resources: www.epa.gov/radon

HEALTH EFFECTS OF RADON

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, after smoking. According to the United States E.P.A., radon causes more deaths than any other single pollutant, except tobacco, in the U.S. An estimated 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year are caused by Radon.

If inhaled, radon decay products (polonium-218 & polonium-214, solid form), unattached or attached to the surface of aerosols, dusts, and smoke particles, become deeply lodged or trapped in the lungs, where they can radiate and penetrate the cells of mucous membranes, bronchial and other pulmonary tissues.

What is the Evidence?

More is known about the health risk of radon exposure to humans than most other human carcinogens. This is based on extensive epidemiological studies of underground miners, carried out over more than 50 years worldwide, including the United States and Canada. In addition to the miner data, experimental exposure of animals confirm that radon and its decay products can cause lung cancer.

The research on lung cancer mortality in miners exposed to radon progeny is substantial and consistent.



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