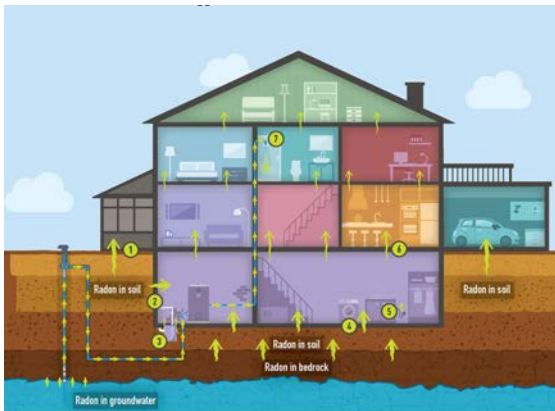


# Radon Gas

## Did you know...?

- Radon is the **second** leading cause of lung cancer, after smoking.
- Approximately **20,000 cancer deaths** each year are caused by radon.
- Radon is the leading cause of cancer among nonsmokers.
- About **1 out of every 15** homes has a radon problem.



## How do I know if my home has radon?

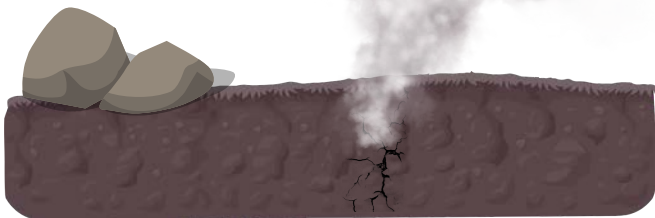
Radon is a **radioactive gas** that cannot be seen or smelled. It is found naturally around the country.

Radon is found in the dirt and rocks beneath houses, in well water, and in some building materials. It can enter your house through soil, dirt floors in crawlspaces, and cracks in foundations, floors, and walls.

All houses have some radon, but houses next to each other can have very different radon levels. So the only way to determine your particular risk is to **test your home**.

Radon is measured in “picoCuries per liter of air,” abbreviated “pCi/L.” This unit of measure describes the number of radon gas particles in 1 liter of air.

There is no known “safe” level of radon exposure. If your home has a radon level of 4 pCi/L or more, you should take action to lower this level.



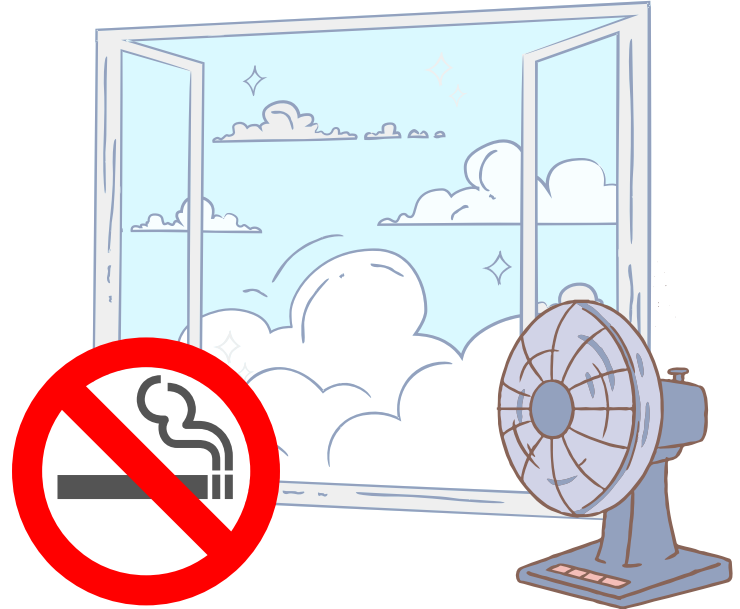
# Radon Gas

## How Can I Test My Home?

You can **buy a radon test** at a hardware store or order it online. There are 2 types of tests: **short-term tests** take 2 to 90 days, while **long-term tests** take more than 90 days but provide a better estimate of your annual average radon level.

If possible during the test, **keep your windows closed** to keep air from escaping. Place your test kit in a room on the **lowest level** of your home that you use regularly, probably on the first floor or in the basement. When the test is done, **send it to a lab** to process your results.

You can also **hire a professional tester** to do the test for you. Contact your state's radon office for a list of qualified testers. ([www.epa.gov/iaq/wherelive.html](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/wherelive.html))



## What else can I do?

- **Stop smoking** and discourage smoking in your home. Smoking significantly increases the risk of lung cancer from radon.
- **Increase air flow** in your house by opening windows and using fans and vents to circulate air. Natural ventilation in any type of house is only a temporary strategy to reduce radon.
- **Seal cracks** in floors and walls with plaster, caulk, or other materials designed for this purpose.
- **Contact your state radon office** for a list of qualified contractors in your area and for information on how to fix radon problems yourself. Always test again after finishing to make sure you've fixed your radon problem.
- Ask about **radon resistant** construction techniques if you are buying a new home. It is almost always cheaper and easier to build these features into new homes than to add them later.

