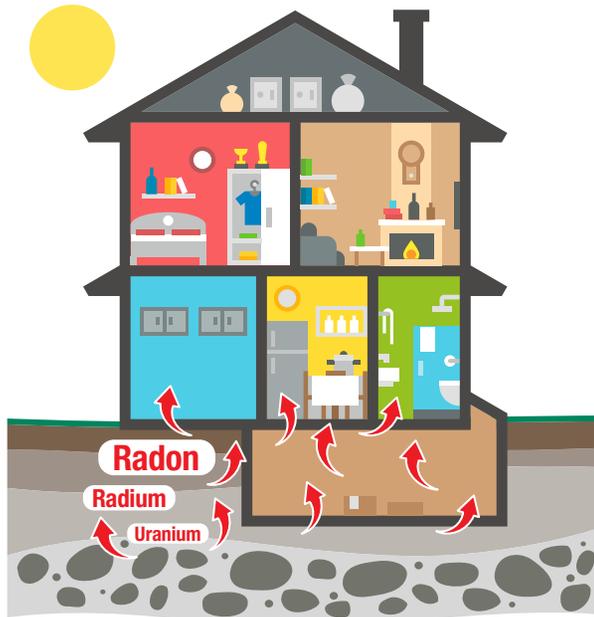


How does radon enter a home?

- The main source of radon in a home is the ground beneath it. Radon moves up through the soil and enters through cracks and holes in the foundation.
- Radon gas can become trapped inside a home and raise to high levels. Any home can have a radon problem. This includes homes that are new, old, well-insulated, drafty, with or without a basement.
- If you find you have high radon levels in your home and your water comes from a well, test your water for radon. If you have radon in your well water, showering, washing dishes and laundering can release radon gas into the air. The only way to know if you have high levels of radon in your private well water is to test for it.



Did you know?

Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer. The leading cause of lung cancer is cigarette smoking.

Radon levels in your home can differ from your neighbor's.

Radon can be in homes of *any* construction type. This includes slab-on-grade foundations, crawlspaces and basements.

Testing is the only way to know if you have high levels of radon in your home.

Oregon Health Authority

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Oregon Radon Awareness Program

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact the Oregon Radon Awareness Program, Public Health Division at 971-673-0440 or email radon.program@dhsosha.state.or.us. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.

OHA 9406 (05/2020)

Radon causes lung cancer



Have you tested your home for radon?

Oregon Health Authority

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
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What is radon?

- Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas. You can't see, smell or taste it.
- The natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water produces radon. You can find uranium in soil all over the world. Some locations have a higher radon risk than others. However, you don't have to live in a high radon risk area to have it in your home. Likewise, your neighbor could have radon and you don't, or the other way around.

Why is radon harmful?

- Radon breaks down into solid particles. These particles are known as radon decay products. When decay products are inhaled, they become trapped in the lungs. This can cause damage to lung tissue.
- Over time, exposure to high levels of radon raises a person's risk of getting lung cancer. Anyone can get lung cancer from long term exposure to radon. However, this risk is 10 times higher for smokers.

How can I get my home tested?

- You can test your home yourself. Test kits are available online or at your local hardware or home improvement store.
- You can also hire a professional to test your home for you. Visit our website at www.healthoregon.org/radon for a list of qualified testing companies.

The U.S. Surgeon General recommends that all homes be tested for radon.

Which test should I use?

- There are two types of tests commonly used to test for radon:
 - Short-term tests (2–90 days), and
 - Long-term tests (91 days – 1 year).
- You can find radon test kits at:
- Your local hardware or home improvement store, or
 - Order online through organizations such as the American Lung Association® (www.lung.org).
- To test private well water, contact an accredited laboratory.

What do my test results mean?

- The amount of radon in the air is measured in picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that you take action if the radon level in your home is an average of 4 pCi/L or higher.
- If test results are **4 to 8 pCi/L** follow up with a long-term test.
- If test results are **8 pCi/L** or above, follow up with another short-term test. You will need to fix your home if:
 - The average of your two short-term tests are 4 pCi/L or above, or
 - The result of your long-term test was 4 pCi/L or above.
- If your test results are below **4.0 pCi/L**, you may want to re-test in two to five years.

- You should retest:
 - Every two to five years if your test results come back below 4.0pCi/L.
 - If you do a remodel or renovate
 - If you replace your heating system
 - If you finish or refinish your basement
 - If you plan to live in a lower level of your home where you haven't lived before, or
 - If you are going to sell your home and your state or local government requires you to disclose radon information to the buyer.

How do I lower radon levels in my home?

- Sub-slab depressurization or sub-slab suction is the most common way to fix a radon problem. A fan pulls air with radon from beneath the home through a pipe, which vents the radon outside. If you seal cracks and holes in the foundation it can help this process.
- It takes technical knowledge and skill to lower the radon levels in your home. The Oregon Radon Awareness Program recommends that you hire a certified radon professional.
 - For more information about how to fix your home go to <https://www.epa.gov/radon/consumers-guide-radon-reduction-how-fix-your-home>.
 - Visit our website at www.healthoregon.org/radon for a list of certified radon professionals.