

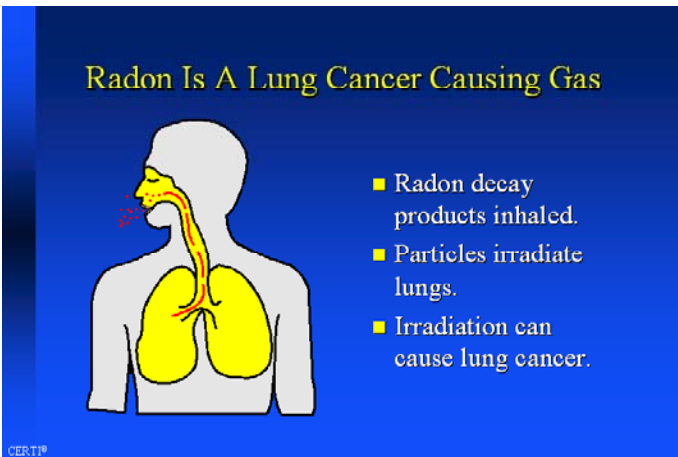
Radon

The Invisible Threat

Radon is an odorless, tasteless, naturally occurring radioactive gas estimated to be the cause of thousands of deaths in the United States each year. Radon is produced during the natural decay of uranium in soil, rock and water. When you breathe air in your home, office or school containing radon, over time, you are at risk of developing lung cancer. The Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. 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.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) estimate that radon exposure may cause approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year.



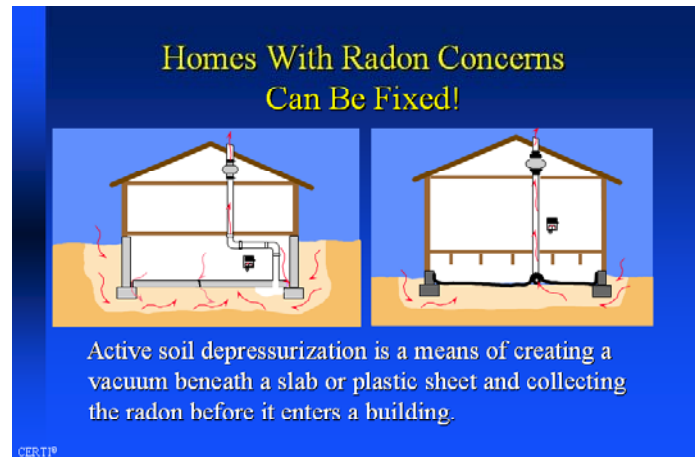
The EPA states that areas with radon levels of 4 pico curies per liter (pCi/L) or higher are considered high risk. Most of the counties within the state of Colorado are rated as high risk for radon.

The EPA & Surgeon General recommend all homes be tested for radon. Testing is the only effective way to know if you or your family is at risk. There are two types of home tests: short-term and long-term. The short-term test is an initial test, which occurs in your home over 2 to 4 days. The long-term test stays in your home for 90 to 365 days.



Test kits are relatively inexpensive and can be found at hardware stores, home improvement centers, Colorado laboratories and national laboratories. To obtain a \$7.00 coupon toward a short-term test kit or a \$20.00 coupon toward a long-term test kit from The National Safety Council, visit the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) website or call the Radon Hotline listed below.

After completing a short-term test, if your result is 4 pCi/L or greater, either install a radon reduction system or conduct a long-term test. The average cost for mitigating a home ranges from \$800 to \$2,500. For a full listing of National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)-certified contractors in Colorado visit the CDPHE website.



Remember to retest your home after the contractor has installed the radon reduction system to verify its effectiveness.

- For further information contact the CDPHE Radon Hotline at 1-800-846-3986
- Visit the Web at www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/rad/radon