

Important Facts about Radon

- Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, and radioactive gas.
- Radon is classified as a Class A carcinogen (known to cause cancer in humans.)
- Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States according to the 2005 U.S. Surgeon General Report. The Surgeon General urges all Americans to get their homes tested for radon.
- Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.
- Lung cancer from Radon exposure is PREVENTABLE.
- The only way to know if you are at risk for radon exposure in the home is to test for radon.
- Testing is easy and inexpensive – test kits are available in hardware stores or online for less than \$20.
- The USEPA has set an action level of 4.0pCi/L for indoor radon exposure. EPA recommends that people reduce the level of radon in the home to less than 4 pCi/L.
- IEMA estimates that 1,160 Illinois citizens die from radon related lung cancer annually.
- Radon exposure leads to more deaths each year than drunk driving, falls in the home, drowning, or home fires.
- Lung cancer due to indoor radon exposure claims approximately 21,000 lives per year. (USEPA)
- Radon accounts for 37% of Illinois citizen's annual radiation exposure – by far the greatest single source of radiation exposure to the general public.
- USEPA consistently ranks radon in the top 4 environmental risks to the public.