Radon Information & Facts

EXPERT
RADON SERVICE

WHAT IS RADON?
Radon is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless radioactive gas and a leading cause of lung cancer.

WHERE DOES RADON COME FROM?
Uranium found in the earth's rock and soil decays into radon. Because it is a gas, radon can move into water or air.

Radon gas that moves from under the ground can migrate into a home. Once inside, radon accumulates. For this reason, radon levels found in a home are typically much higher than the average outdoor radon concentration of 0.4 pCi/L (picocuries per liter of air).

HOW DOES RADON GET INTO HOMES?
Radon enters a home primarily up through the basement from the ground below.

Radon can enter a home through the following:

- floor-wall joints
- French drains
- sump pits, floor drains
- penetrations of utility lines
- crawl spaces
- dirt floors
- block wall foundations
- cracks and crevices in floors and walls

IS EXPOSURE TO INDOOR RADON HARMFUL?
Yes. Radon is a carcinogen, which means it is known to cause cancer in humans.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in people who never smoke, and the second leading cause of lung cancer overall. The greater the exposure to radon, especially if you smoke cigarettes, the greater your chance of developing lung cancer.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that 21,000 radon-related deaths occur annually in the United States. Deaths attributed to radon far exceed deaths due to car accidents, falls, drownings, and fires.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ONONDAGA COUNTY RESIDENTS?
As of October 2018, the N.Y. State Dept. of Health says that 47% of homes in Onondaga County have radon levels over the EPA recommended action level (4.0 pCi/L) with the highest town coming in at 71%.

Testing air in a home can help identify if radon is a problem within the dwelling.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF MY HOME HAS RADON?
Air testing is the only way to know if your home has elevated radon levels. Short term radon tests are the most common way to test the air in a home and can be processed by a lab which will give a report showing what the current radon levels are.

IF MY HOME HAS ELEVATED RADON LEVELS, CAN IT BE FIXED?
In most cases, YES. A method called active soil depressurization is typically used to fix or mitigate a home with elevated radon levels. This method creates a zone of low pressure below the slab, which reduces the rate at which radon enters the home. In most (but not all) homes, radon levels can be mitigated to below 2.0pCi/L. Although the EPA action guide for radon is 4.0 pCi/L.

MY HOME TESTED AT 3.9 pCi/L, I'M SAFE?!?
The EPA recommends you take action to lower radon in your home at 4.0 pCi/L while the World Health Organization does at 2.7 pCi/L.

Having a radon level of 4.0 pCi/L is equal to smoking 8 cigarettes/day or 200 chest x-rays/year. These are not "safe" and you should consider mitigation to lower the radon level as much as possible.

CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION OR SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO HAVE MY HOME TESTED/MITIGATED?
Expert Radon Service (ERS) can do short term charcoal canister radon tests as well as professionally design and install a mitigation system in your home.

ERS – Will Clark (owner) can be reached at:
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