

Radon Myths & Facts

FACT: Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas. You can't see radon, nor you can you smell it or taste it. But it may be a problem in your home. Radon is estimated to cause many thousands of deaths each year. That's because when you breathe air containing radon, you can get lung cancer. In fact, the Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States today. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths. If you smoke and your home has high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is especially high. Radon can be found all over the U.S. Radon comes from the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water and gets into the air you breathe. Radon can be found all over the U.S. It can get into any type of building—homes, offices, and schools—and result in a high indoor radon level. But you and your family are most likely to get your greatest exposure at home, where you spend most of your time.

MYTH:

Scientists aren't sure radon really is a problem

FACT:

Although some scientists dispute the precise number of deaths due to radon, all major health organizations (like the Centers for Disease Control, the American Lung Association and the American Medical Association) agree with estimates that radon causes thousands of preventable lung cancer deaths every year. This is especially true among smokers, since the risk to smokers is much greater than to nonsmokers.

MYTH:

Radon testing is difficult, time consuming and expensive

FACT:

Radon testing is easy, a qualified radon test company can test your home and it only takes 48 hours.

(All County Home Inspections is qualified to complete radon testing)

MYTH:

Homes with radon problems can't be fixed

FACT:

There are simple solutions to radon problems in homes. Hundreds of thousands of homeowners have already fixed radon problems in their homes. Most homes can be fixed for about the same cost as other common home repairs; check with one or more qualified mitigators.

MYTH:

Radon only affects certain kinds of homes

FACT:

House construction can affect radon levels. However, radon can be a problem in homes of all types: old homes, new homes, drafty homes, insulated homes, homes with basements, homes without basements. Local geology, construction materials, and how the home was built are among the factors that can affect radon levels in homes.

MYTH:

Radon is only a problem in certain parts of the country

FACT:

High radon levels have been found in every state. Radon problems do vary from area to area, but the only way to know your radon level is to test.

MYTH:

A neighbor's test result is a good indication of whether your home has a problem.

FACT:

It's not. Radon levels can vary greatly from home to home. The only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test it.

MYTH:

It's difficult to sell homes where radon problems have been discovered

FACT:

Where radon problems have been fixed, home sales have not been blocked or frustrated. The added protection is sometimes a good selling point.