

RADON IN IOWA

What is Radon?

Radon is a natural radioactive gas that can cause cancer. You can't see, smell or taste it, but radon may be in your home. The Surgeon General's National Health Advisory on Radon states that "Indoor radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and breathing it over prolonged periods can present a significant health risk to families all over the country." According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), radon is the first leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers.

The entire state of Iowa is considered at high risk for radon gas in homes by the EPA. High levels of radon can be found in any type of home, so it is recommended everyone test their homes.

Testing

Why should I test my home?

Although there are no immediate symptoms, long-term exposure to radon can cause cellular damage in the lungs that can lead to lung cancer.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Surgeon General, American Lung Association, American Medical Association, and the National Safety Council recommend testing your home for radon because testing is the only way to know if your home has radon.

Contact your local county health department or call **1-800-383-5992** to purchase a do-it-yourself, low-cost test kit.

Data

The Iowa Radon Survey has indicated that Iowa has the largest percentage of homes above the US Environmental Protection Agency action level. It is also designated by the US EPA as an entirely zone 1 state, which means that at least 50% of the homes are above US EPA's recommended action level.

For further information about radon in your home, you may go to the following website.
<http://www.epa.gov/radon/pdfs/citizensguide.pdf>