



JANUARY IS NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH



Basic Radon Facts

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in rock, soil and water from the natural decay of uranium. While levels in outdoor air pose a relatively low threat to human health, radon can accumulate to dangerous levels inside buildings. You can't see, smell or taste it, but an elevated radon level in your home may be affecting the health of your family.

Exposure to radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and the No. 1 cause among nonsmokers. **According to experts, living in a home with an average radon level of 4 pCi/l poses as much risk of developing lung cancer as smoking half a pack of cigarettes a day!** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that radon causes 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the U.S. each year. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths. If you smoke and your home has radon, your risk of lung cancer can be much higher.



Radon is found all over the United States.

Radon has been found in elevated levels in homes in every state. No area of the country is free from risk. Indeed, two homes right next to each other can have vastly different radon levels. Just because your neighbor's house does not have an elevated level of radon does not mean that your house will have a low radon level. The only way to know if your home is under the EPA action level of 4 pCi/l is to test. High levels of radon in homes usually come from the surrounding soil. Radon gas enters through cracks and openings — such as sump pump lids and plumbing features — on the lower levels of your home. Hot spots include basements, first-floor rooms and garages, but radon can be found anywhere in your house.

You should test for radon.

The U.S. Surgeon General recommends that all homes in the U.S. be tested for radon. Testing your home for radon is easy. If radon problems are found, they can be fixed.

How to Obtain Radon Test Kits

- Test kits are **FREE** from **Dec. 1, 2014 to Feb. 28, 2015** at Cooperative Extension and partner offices.
- Call **1-888-RADON10** to find the nearest test kit location or request a test kit by mail.
- For more information visit <http://www.RadonNV.com>.
- **Free test kits** are available at Radon Programs in January and February. See the calendar on the website, www.RadonNV.com for dates and locations in your area.

Nevada Radon Education Program
4955 Energy Way
Reno, NV 89502
Call 888-RADON10 (888-723-6610)



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Basic Radon Facts (continued)

You can find out if your home has an elevated radon level by conducting a simple test. It's as easy as opening a package, placing a radon detector in a designated area, and, after three days, sending the detector back to a lab for analysis. The lab will then inform you of your radon test results.



Radon test kits are available at most University of Nevada Cooperative Extension offices. Contact the Radon Hotline at 1-888-RADON10 to find the nearest office or to inquire about radon testing. Information about testing your home for radon is also available by visiting Nevada's Radon Education Program website: www.RadonNV.com.

Radon is measured in picocuries per liter of air (pCi/l), a measurement of radioactivity. EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that homes with radon levels at 4 pCi/l or higher should be fixed. EPA also suggests that Americans consider fixing their homes for radon levels between 2 pCi/l and 4 pCi/l. Based on a national residential radon survey completed in 1991, the average indoor radon level is about 1.3 pCi/l in the United States. The average outdoor level is about 0.4 pCi/l.

You can fix a radon problem.

The cost of making repairs to reduce the radon level depends on several factors, including how your home was built. Most homes can be fixed for about the same cost as other common home repairs, like painting or having a new hot water heater installed. The average cost in Nevada for a contractor to mitigate radon levels for a slab or basement foundation is \$2,500 and the average cost for a crawl space foundation is \$3,800. Call the Cooperative Extension office listed below or the state radon office, 1-888-RADON10 (1-888-723-6610) to locate radon mitigators in your area.

New homes can be built with radon-reducing features.

Radon-reducing construction methods can be effective in reducing radon entry. When used properly, these simple and cost-effective techniques can help reduce the accumulation of radon gas in homes.

Every new home should be tested after occupancy, even if it was built using radon-reducing construction methods. If radon levels at or above EPA's action level of 4 pCi/l are detected, it is easier and less expensive to reduce radon levels in homes that are built with radon-reducing construction techniques.

For more information:

- ❑ **Toll free Radon Hotline:**
1-888-RADON10 or 1-888-723-6610
- ❑ **University of Nevada Cooperative Extension**
4955 Energy Way, Reno, NV 89502
Susan Howe, Program Director: 775-336-0248 or
Jamie Roice-Gomes, Radon Education Coordinator: 775-336-0252
- ❑ **Nevada Radon Education Program website:** www.RadonNV.com



Radon presents a serious health risk, but it can be controlled easily and cost effectively. Take action today. Encourage your friends and family members to do the same!