

What you don't know
can hurt you!

Quick Facts

- Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas, second only to tobacco for number of lung cancer deaths in the U.S. each year.
- 1/3 of houses in Utah have dangerous levels.
- You can test for and fix radon problems.
- New homes can be built with radon-resistant features.

Order your \$11 radon test
kit online at:
radon.utah.gov

"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. It's important to know that this threat is completely preventable. Radon can be detected with a simple test and fixed through well-established venting techniques."

*~ Richard Carmona,
US Surgeon General (2005)*

Radon & My Home

How To Identify, Treat & Prevent It

Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Radon Program

Office: (801) 536-0091 | Radon Hotline (800) 458-0145

radon.utah.gov



UTAH DEPARTMENT of
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY

What is Radon?

Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas. The U.S. Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, next to smoking. Radon is estimated to cause 20,000 deaths in the U.S. each year.

Radon Levels Are High In 1 out of 3 of Utah Homes

Radon comes from the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water and gets into the air you breathe. Radon can get into any type of building – homes, offices, and schools. You and your family will most likely have your greatest exposure at home, where you spend most of your time.

How Does Radon Get Into My Home?

Because radon is a gas, it can get in where solids can't. Common problems allowing radon to enter homes include:

1. Cracks in solid floors
2. Construction joints
3. Cracks in walls
4. Gaps in suspended floors
5. Gaps around service pipes
6. Cavities inside walls
7. The water supply

Does My Home Have High Levels of Radon?

You can't smell, taste, or see radon. The only way to know if you have high levels of radon in your home is to test

What Do These Test Readings Mean?

The average outdoor level is 0.4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L), while the average indoor level is 1.3 pCi/L. The average Utah home has 5.3 pCi/L. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action level is 4.0 pCi/L. Fix your home if the levels are above the 4.0 action level.

I Have High Radon Levels; Now What?

First, RELAX! Radon levels can be fixed inside every home. You can order an easy to use radon test kit at radon.utah.gov for \$11.00 or buy one from a local hardware store. Testing is simple and effective for determining if your house has elevated radon levels.

How Does a Mitigation System Work?

A hole is bored in the basement concrete slab and a suction pump exhausts the gases to the outside.

How Much Does Mitigation Cost?

Radon mitigation systems can be installed to lower your radon level for about the same cost as other common home repairs – usually about \$1,500.

What Does a Mitigation System Do?

In addition to venting radon, the mitigation system reduces asthma triggers, air particles, volatile organic compounds, and mold. Improving the indoor air quality in your home and creating a value added addition increases your home value.

To order a radon test kit or to find a list of Utah Certified Measurement or Mitigation Providers, go to:

radon.utah.gov