

**Surgeon General's Warning:
Radon Causes Lung Cancer.
You Should Test Your Home.**

Is Your Home Making You sick?

Breathing radon in your home can increase your risk of lung cancer. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among people who do not smoke. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer for smokers. If you smoke and your home has a high radon level, your risk of lung cancer can increase even more. EPA estimates that radon causes more than 21,000 deaths from lung cancer each year in the U.S.

Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless, radioactive gas released in rock, soil and water. Radon seeps into the lowest level of buildings and homes, including new and old homes, well-sealed and drafty homes, and homes on a slab or with a basement. Radon levels can vary greatly from home to home. The U.S. Surgeon General recommends ALL homes be tested for radon gas.

Radon is measured in picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L), a measurement of radioactivity. In the United States, the average indoor radon level is about 1.3 pCi/L. The average outdoor level is about 0.4 pCi/L. Radon has been found in every county in Ohio. In Summit County, average radon levels range between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L. To view a map of radon levels in Ohio Counties, go to the [Ohio Radon Information Systems Web Site - Utoledo.edu](http://www.eng.utoledo.edu/aprg/radon/fig1new.html) <http://www.eng.utoledo.edu/aprg/radon/fig1new.html>. The U.S. Surgeon General and EPA recommend fixing or mitigating homes with radon levels at or above 4 pCi/L. EPA also recommends fixing homes with radon levels between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L.

Most homes can be fixed for about the same cost as other common home repairs. A basic system is installed which consists of a PVC pipe with a small fan that carries radon from under the house and out the PVC pipe through the roof. Use an ODH Licensed Radon Contractor. They are listed on the ODH webpage, under Radon Licensing.

Testing your house for radon is easy. A free, short term test kit is available from the Ohio Dept. of Health (ODH) Indoor Radon Grant. Download the coupon at www.ohio.radon.com and follow the instructions. The free radon test kit and one page of instructions with photos will be mailed to your home. Read the instructions carefully for correct placement of the kit. After sending the test kit back, the company will send you the radon results in about 2 weeks. For more information about radon testing, call the SCPH Licensed Radon Tester at (330) 926-5600.

Take action today. The best time to test is when your doors and windows are closed during the cold months. Encourage your friends and family members to do the same! January is National Radon Action Month.