

# HOME

# MATTERS



## Eliminate Radon Dangers

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas produced by the breakdown of uranium in soil, rocks, and water. Since the air pressure in a typical home is lower than the pressure in the soil around the foundation, the home acts like a vacuum and draws radon in through cracks in the foundation.

Radon exposure can have detrimental effects on both your own and your family's health—elevating the risk for complications such as lung cancer. With this in mind, consider the following guidance to help eliminate radon dangers in your home.

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### When to Test for Radon

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), radon gas levels can vary by day, season, and geographic area. The EPA recommends testing for radon if:

- The home was never tested.
- The home hasn't been tested in more than two years.
- The home has been renovated since it was last tested.
- You plan to occupy a lower level of the home than what was originally tested, such as the basement.

### How to Test for Radon

To test a home for radon, you can order a kit by mail from a qualified radon measurement service provider, purchase a radon kit from a local hardware store, or hire a qualified radon tester (often also a home inspector).

If a radon test reveals that your home's level is dangerous, you can install a radon mitigation system. A qualified radon reduction contractor can often install a system in less than a day. If your home's water source has high levels of radon as well, a point-of-entry treatment device can be installed to reduce emissions.

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## The Risks of Radon Exposure

The National Cancer Institute reports that radon exposure is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Ensure that your family is breathing easy by testing for radon and installing a radon mitigation system if the gas levels in your home are too high.