

## Building a New Home?

Be sure to consider building with Radon Resistant New Construction Techniques. These new techniques can be effective in preventing radon entry, and installing these features at the time of construction is easier and less expensive than retrofitting an existing home.



## Radon Information

The EPA publishes the following documents:

- A Citizen's Guide to Radon: The Guide to Protecting Yourself and Your Family From Radon
- Building Radon Out: A Step-by-Step Guide on How to Build Radon Resistant Homes
- Home Buyer's and Seller's Guide to Radon
- Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction: How to Fix Your Home

**You can visit our Web site to download versions of the above documents:**  
[www.deq.state.ok.us/radon](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/radon)

## More Information

If you have questions or concerns please contact:  
Keisha Cornelius or  
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## Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

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To order test kits,  
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Courtesy of:



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# Radon in Oklahoma



## How to Protect Your Family From Radon

[www.deq.state.ok.us/radon](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/radon)



## What is Radon?

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is emitted from the decay of uranium in the soil, rock and water. Radon is estimated to cause many thousands of deaths each year in the U.S. That's because when you breathe air containing radon over a period of time, you can get lung cancer. In fact, the Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States today. You can't see radon. And you can't smell or taste it. But it may be a problem in your home.

## How does Radon get into your home?

Radon typically moves up through the ground to the air above and into your home through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Your home traps radon inside, where it can build up. You are more likely to get your greatest exposure to radon at home because that is where you spend most of your time.

The only way to know the levels of radon in your home is to test. Testing is easy and inexpensive. Test kits can be purchased from home improvement stores or can be purchased from the DEQ. Testing usually takes only three to seven days, with only a few minutes to set up the kit.

## Radon Risks

Radon decays into radioactive particles that can become trapped in your lungs when you breathe. As these particles break down, they emit alpha particles, which are radioactive and can cause damage to the delicate tissue in your lungs. This damage can lead to lung cancer over the course of your lifetime. If you smoke and your home has high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is especially high.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has set a level of concern, or "action level" for homes. Remedial action should be taken if the radiation level is currently 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or greater. EPA also recommends that the remedial action should be considered if radiation levels are between 2 and 4 pCi/L.



The only way to determine whether you have a radon problem is to test your home. It's never too late to reduce your risk of lung cancer.

## Radon Problems Can Be Fixed!

If the radon test indicates levels in your home are above the EPA action level of 4 pCi/L, it is recommended that you consider radon mitigation.

Radon mitigation prevents radon from entering your home through the soil beneath your home. There are various methods of reducing radon levels in your home. In some cases, sealing cracks in floors and walls may help reduce radon levels. In other cases, a radon mitigation system should be installed.

The cost of reducing radon levels varies depending on the extent of the radon problem. The average home mitigation cost about \$1,200 for a contractor to fix, although this can range from about \$800 to \$2,500.



Check out our Web site to locate a Certified Radon Mitigator near you.  
[www.deq.state.ok.us/radon](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/radon)