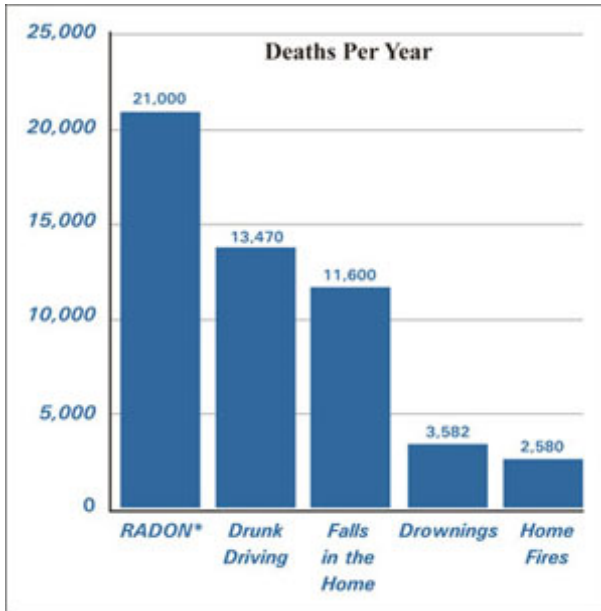


It's never too late to reduce the risk of lung cancer

- Get your house tested for radon
- Elevated levels put you and your family at danger
- The cost to fix is usually no more than other common home repairs



* Radon is estimated to cause about 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year, according to EPA's 2003 Assessment of Risks from Radon in Homes. The numbers of deaths from other causes are taken from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2005-2006 National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Report and 2006 National Safety Council Reports. Table Source: epa.gov/radon

Radon Resources

- EPA: www.epa.gov/radon
- EPA Citizen's Guide to Radon: www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html
- SD Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources: www.denr.sd.gov/des/aq/aarad.aspx
- American Lung Assoc.: www.lung.org/healthy-air/home/resources/radon.html

1-800 Numbers

- South Dakota Radon Information Line 1-800-GET-DENR
- National Radon Hotline: *Purchase radon test kits by phone 1-800-SOS-RADON*
- National Radon Helpline: *Get live help for your radon questions. 1-800-55RADON*
- National Radon Fix-It Line: *For general information on fixing or reducing the radon level in your home. 1-800-644-6999*

To order a radon testing kit from the State Health Lab, send a written request along with a \$17.00 check to 615 E. 4th Street, Pierre, SD, 57501. To contact the State Health Lab call (605) 773-3368.

RADON

A simple test could save your life

What is it?

How does it affect my health?

How do I test for it?

How can I fix it?

PENNINGTON COUNTY



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RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

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Planning Department

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www.co.pennington.sd.us

RADON: Every home should be tested

What is it?

Radon is an **odorless, colorless, radioactive gas**. It occurs naturally as uranium in the soil breaks down.

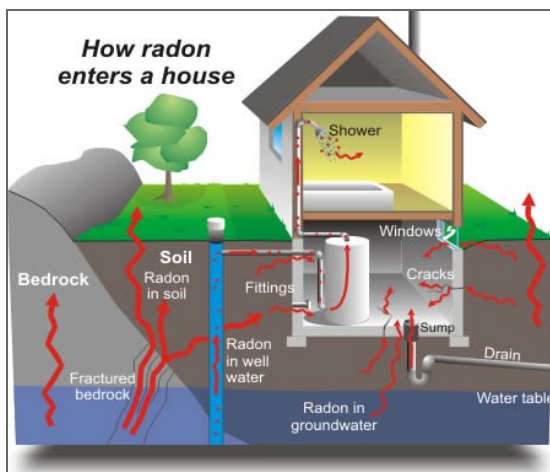
Where is it?

Radon is emitted from the ground and enters homes through **basement floors, foundations, and wall cracks**. It becomes a problem when it accumulates inside homes.

Why is it a problem?

Over time, the radioactive particles that are inhaled into the lungs cause cancer.

Inhaling radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer deaths in the U.S. The American Lung Association estimates 21,000 radon-related deaths per year.



Source: mitigationsystems.com

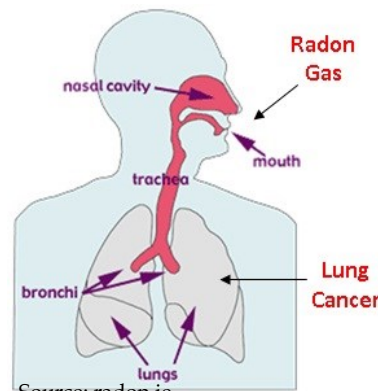
How to test for radon

Radon testing is easy and inexpensive. Test kits are available at hardware stores, most big-box retailers, and by the South Dakota Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources. These are designed for **first-time radon testing**. After conducting the test according to the instructions, mail the kit to the testing facility, and the results will be mailed back to you. Some kits include the lab fee in the purchase of the kit.

Long-term tests are designed for homes that have been tested before and have shown elevated radon levels. They take 90 days or more to take the sample.

Another option is a **digital readout meter** that plugs into a 120 volt outlet and provides readings within two days.

If you've tested the air in your home and found a radon problem, **and your water comes from a private well**, have your water tested too. Water radon tests are also available at most hardware stores.



Source: radon.ie

How much is too much?

No level of radon is safe, but here's a guide to know when you should seek help in fixing a radon problem. Units of radon are expressed in picocuries per liter, or pCi/L.

Radon Level	Action to take
4pCi/L & higher	Get home fixed
2-4 pCi/L	Consider fixing
1.3 pCi/L*	Avg. indoor level
0.4 pCi/L*	Avg. outdoor level

*Lowering levels below 2 pCi/L is difficult

My results show elevated levels of radon, what do I do now?

Fixing the problem requires special skills and technical knowledge. Find a contractor who is trained and qualified to fix a home radon problem.

The most common method of reducing radon levels is called **soil suction radon reduction** and uses a vent pipe system and fan, to pull radon from beneath the house and vent it outside. Along with sealing foundation cracks, this system does not require making major changes, and is effective and efficient. Like any other home repair, get references and more than one estimate.