# Does Your Home Have a Radon Problem?

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

### CR-006953 12/18

S.C. DHEC
Radon Helpline: (800) 768-0362
Radon Web site: www.scdhec.gov/radon
Email: radon@dhec.sc.gov

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Radon Hotline: (800) SOS-RADON (767-7236)
Radon Web site: www.epa.gov/radon

For certified contractors contact:
National Radon Proficiency Program
www.aarst-nrpp.com
or
National Radon Safety Board
www.nrsb.org

---

**For More Information:**

**Table provided by EPA.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Radon Level (pCi/L)</th>
<th>Neversmokers</th>
<th>CurrentSmokers</th>
<th>GeneralPopulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.22 out of 1,000</td>
<td>1.22 out of 1,000</td>
<td>7.22 out of 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>4.22 out of 1,000</td>
<td>2.22 out of 1,000</td>
<td>14.22 out of 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>8.44 out of 1,000</td>
<td>4.44 out of 1,000</td>
<td>28.44 out of 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>16.88 out of 1,000</td>
<td>8.88 out of 1,000</td>
<td>56.88 out of 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A: Assumes constant lifetime exposure in homes at these levels.
- B: Estimates are subject to uncertainties as discussed in Chapter V111 of the risk assessment.
- C: Note: Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR) VI Report did not specify excess relative risk of lung cancer death per person.

---

**Surgeon General’s Warning:**

Radon Causes Lung Cancer. You Should Test Your Home.

---

**Illustration provided by EPA.**
Radon is a cancer-causing, natural, radioactive gas. Radon causes more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the U.S. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers. Radon can be found all over the U.S., including South Carolina. Radon levels as high as 70.0 pCi/L and higher have been found in South Carolina. Nearly one out of every 15 homes in the U.S. is estimated to have elevated radon levels.

Radon Facts

- Radon is a cancer-causing, natural, radioactive gas.
- Radon causes more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the U.S.
- Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers.
- Radon can be found all over the U.S., including South Carolina.
- Radon levels as high as 70.0 pCi/L and higher have been found in South Carolina.
- Nearly one out of every 15 homes in the U.S. is estimated to have elevated radon levels.

Radon Risks

Radon is a natural, radioactive gas. It forms when uranium breaks down in soil, rock and water. You can't see, smell or taste radon. It gets into the air you breathe indoors, primarily from soil under your home and other buildings.

Radon can get into any type of building (homes, offices and schools), which can cause high indoor radon levels. However, you are most likely to get your greatest exposure at home since that is where you spend most of your time.

Radon is a risk because it decays into radioactive particles that can get trapped in your lungs when you breathe. These particles break down and release small bursts of energy that can damage lung tissue and lead to lung cancer. Your chances of getting lung cancer from radon depend mostly on how much radon is in your home, the amount of time you spend in your home, and if you smoke or have ever smoked.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has an action level of 4 Pico Curies per liter (pCi/L). This means you should install radon reduction systems in your home if the radon level is 4 pCi/L or higher. Radon reduction systems are installed by qualified professionals and are not very expensive. In fact, some systems can reduce radon levels in your home by up to 99 percent. Levels below 4 pCi/L also can pose a health risk and in many cases can be reduced. You can reduce your risk of lung cancer by lowering your radon levels.

What You Can Do

The only way to know if you have a radon problem is to test your home. Testing for radon is easy, inexpensive and only takes a few minutes.

Radon test kits can be purchased from the National Radon Program at 1-800-767-7236 or www.sosradon.org, or a certified radon tester can be hired. A limited quantity of FREE test kits are available from DHEC each year. To request one, fill out the test kit request form found at www.scdhec.gov/radon. The South Carolina Radon Program does not provide radon test kits for real estate transactions.

For further information send an email to radon@dhec.sc.gov or call the S.C. Radon Helpline at (800) 768-0362.

Protect Your Family

Have Your Home Tested For Radon Today!