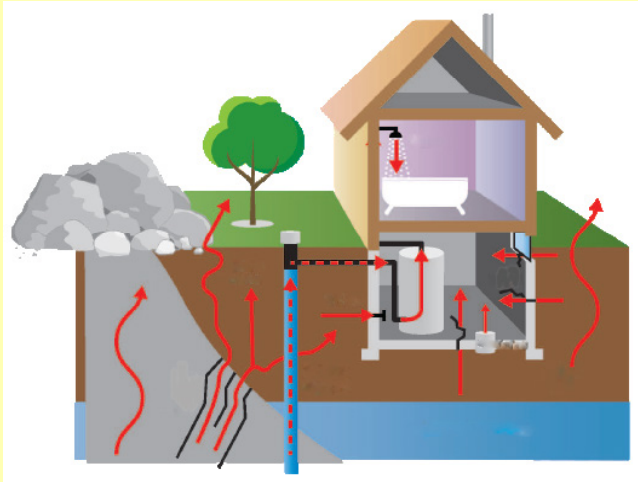


How Radon Enters a Home:

Radon gas enters the home due to pressure differences between your home and the outdoor environment.

Entry locations include foundation cracks, construction joints, gaps near service pipes/wires, and sump pits.



How to Fix your Home:

Performing work to lower indoor radon levels is called mitigation.

The most common method of mitigation is a vent pipe and fan system that removes radon from under the foundation and vents it above the roof line of the home.

For a list of licensed mitigation professionals in Illinois, visit www.radon.illinois.gov.

Contact Information:

Kallie Sinkus
Manager of Environmental Programs
American Lung Association in Illinois
3000 Kelly Lane, Springfield, IL 62711
Email: Kallie.Sinkus@Lung.org
Phone: 217.666.1667

Additional Resources:

Illinois Emergency Management Agency
www.radon.illinois.gov

American Lung Association in Illinois
www.healthhouse.org

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/radon

Illinois High School Radon Video Contest
www.healthhouse.org/radon/il_vidcontest.cfm

National Radon Poster Contest
<http://sosradon.org/poster-contest>

Program Sponsors:



Radon Activity Badge Program



What is Radon?

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, radioactive gas that is produced from the decay of naturally occurring uranium in the soil.

When radon gas enters buildings and is breathed in, decay products damage lung tissue and can result in lung cancer.

Radon can be found anywhere. Outdoor levels are typically very low, however due to pressure differentials, levels indoors may be dangerously high.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer for the general population, killing over 21,000 people annually.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's action level for radon is 4.0pCi/L. The only way to determine radon levels in buildings is to test.

"Indoor radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and breathing it over prolonged periods can present a significant health risk to families all over the country."

-Dr. Richard H. Carmona, U.S. Surgeon General



Step 1: Discover

Read the following:

- "The ABCs of Radon in Illinois" from IEMA at www.radon.illinois.gov
- "The Citizen's Guide to Radon" from USEPA at www.epa.gov/radon/index.html
- "Guidelines for Radon Measurement in the Home" from IEMA (Ages 14 – 18 only)

Watch the Videos:

- *Radon and You* produced by the American Lung Association in Illinois
 - Radon video contest videos

Step 2: Connect

Incorporate the appropriate Activity Book into Troop Meeting or Event

- Kindergarten - 5th grade activity and coloring book
- 6th - 12th grade curriculum guide

For further questions or more information, contact the American Lung Association in Illinois.

Step 3: Take Action (Choose One)

1. Radon at Home

- Test your home for radon by following guidelines outlined in the test kit directions (test kits available at HealthHouse.org)
- Discuss your project, general radon information, test results, and where to purchase a test kit with neighbors or family members

2. Poster Contest/Radon Summary (Ages 9-14)

- Submit a poster in the Illinois radon poster contest
- Rules are found online at www.healthhouse.org

3. Video Contest (Ages 14-18)

- Develop a 1-minute video to participate in the Illinois High School Radon Video Contest
- Rules are found online at (www.healthhouse.org)

Gold Award Project Opportunities:

- All listed options may be expanded into a Gold Award service project OR scouts may contact the American Lung Association in Illinois (ALAIL) to design their own project. It is important to note that the ALAIL must approve all projects prior to starting.

