

For more information:

New York State Department of Health, Center for Environmental Health

health.ny.gov/environmental/radon

Environmental Health Info Line:
800-458-1158

United States Environmental Protection Agency

epa.gov/radon



A message from...
Speaker of the Assembly
Carl E. Heastie

Dear Friend,

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can seep into a house through cracks in the foundation or gaps around your sump pump. It poses a significant health risk; according to EPA estimates, radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers and the second leading cause overall. Invisible and odorless, the only way to know your level of radon exposure is to test your home.



This brochure fact-checks some common beliefs about radon exposure and testing. I hope you find it helpful. To learn more about radon and how to purchase a test for your home, visit the State Department of Health's website at health.ny.gov/environmental/radon or call their Environmental Health Info Line at 800-458-1158.

Don't hesitate to contact my office if I can assist you further with this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly

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RADON and your home



Test your knowledge of radon gas and its harmful effects with the quiz inside →

Important information from
Speaker of the Assembly
Carl E. Heastie

How much do you know about RADON?

Take the quiz to find out →



Radon is only a concern for certain areas and in certain types of homes.

✗ FALSE Radon levels can be a problem in any home: with a basement or built on a slab, old or new and drafty or insulated. Radon has been found in homes within every county in New York.

Scientists aren't sure radon is an actual health risk.

✗ FALSE It's difficult to pinpoint the exact number of deaths caused by radon, but many major health organizations agree it causes thousands of preventable lung cancer deaths each year. The cancer risk for smokers exposed to elevated levels of radon is even higher.

Radon testing is difficult, time-consuming and expensive.

✗ FALSE Testing a home is easy, inexpensive and takes just a little of your time. Reliable test kits are available in hardware and other retail stores, as well as through the State Department of Health.

Homes that are affected by elevated radon levels can be fixed.

✓ TRUE A mitigation system can lower radon levels in your home by up to 99%. Price estimates will vary depending on your home and the extent of the issue. Local radon mitigation contractors can be found at health.ny.gov/environmental/radon/mitigators.htm or by calling the State Department of Health's Environmental Health Info Line.

If there were high levels of radon in my house, I would know it.

✗ FALSE You can't see, smell or taste radon gas. Testing is the only way to know if there are elevated levels in your home.

A neighbor's test results won't indicate whether your home has elevated levels of radon.

✓ TRUE The presence of radon can be different from home to home. The only way to know if you have elevated levels of radon is to test for it.

It's hard to sell a home if elevated levels of radon are discovered.

✗ FALSE Home sales have not been hurt in areas where elevated levels of radon have been fixed. In fact, sometimes the added protection is a good selling point.

I've lived in my home for so long, it won't matter if I take action now.

✗ FALSE Reducing radon levels will lower your risk of lung cancer, even if you've lived with a radon problem for many years.



If you have questions about radon testing and mitigation, contact the State Department of Health's Environmental Health Info Line:
800-458-1158