RADON IN WASHINGTON

What is radon?

Radon is a radioactive gas that is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. It is created from the radioactive decay of certain minerals found naturally in rocks and soils and is released into the air we breathe.

Radon can cause lung cancer.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer overall. The more radon you breathe the more likely it is that you will develop lung cancer.

Radon can sometimes get trapped in homes and buildings, causing elevated levels to build up. There are many factors that affect how much radon is within your home, but the only way to know your radon levels is to test.

Test your home for radon.

Washington State Department of Health (WSDOH) encourages testing for radon. You can buy a radon test kit at a home improvement store or online.

Once the test is complete, send the kit into the testing laboratory using the provided envelope and they will send the results back to you.

Radon comes from the ground and can sometimes get trapped in homes and buildings.

There are many steps you can take to reduce radon levels within the home that are usually not expensive or difficult, some as easy as installing an exhaust fan. If you find elevated levels in your home, WSDOH encourages you to contact a certified radon mitigation company to learn more about what you can do to reduce levels.

Contact:

Washington State Department of Health

Environmental Public Health
Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences

Washington State Indoor Radon Program Radon Hotline:
DOH.Radon@doh.wa.gov
(360) 236-3200

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Elevated levels? Take action.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has set an "action level" of 4 picocuries per liter (4 pCi/L) in the air inside a house. This means that if your level is above 4 pCi/L you should take steps to reduce it.

Washington State Department of **Health**

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