# ASSESSING THE RISK OF RADON IN YOUR HOME

## WHAT IS RADON?

Radon is a colorless gas that emits from the ground. While small amounts of radon are present everywhere, exposure to elevated levels of radon can be harmful over time. According to the Center for Disease Control, radon exposure is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and increases lung cancer risk among smokers.

Radon can enter your home through gaps or cracks in the foundation. Testing your home for radon is important to ensuring you and your family's health.

## HOW TO TEST FOR RADON

You can test for radon within your home by placing radon test devices on every lived-in level that has contact with the ground. Radon test kits are available online and at most hardware stores. It is important to check to see if the test kit you are buying is approved by the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP), or the National Radon Safety Board (NRSB).

## SAFE LEVELS FOR RADON

Radon in the air is measured in picocuries per liter, or pCi/L. The Environmental Protection Agency has found that the average indoor reading is 1.3 pCi/L and advises action when indoor levels exceed 4.0 pCi/L.

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/radiological-health/indoor-radon-program/
- https://www.cdc.gov/radon/about/index.html
- https://www.epa.gov/radon


## FINDING A RADON PROFESSIONAL

If you would prefer to hire a professional to test for radon within your home or need someone to help mitigate high levels, you can find certified professionals in your area on the NRPP or NRSB websites.

- https://nrsb.org/find-a-pro/
- https://nrpp.info/pro-search/

## BEST PRACTICES

### WHEN TO TEST

Keep in mind that radon levels are at their highest during the winter months. If you utilize a short-term detector, such as one that runs for 7 days, avoid periods of severe weather because they may result in higher readings. When you decide to test, it is best to keep external doors and windows closed to avoid lower than normal readings.

### DETECTOR PLACEMENT

Devices should be placed 20 inches above the ground away from any floor openings, outside walls, windows, fans, or areas of high humidity. Certain surfaces such as granite can also lead to inaccurate readings. For more questions about detector placement, refer to the device instructions or a certified radon professional.