



Radon Mitigation

Tips For Fixing
Your Home

Radon is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas that is produced by naturally decaying uranium and radium. Uranium can be found in the soil and rock throughout the world and as it decays, it forms radioactive by-products which can be inhaled and cause damage to lung tissue. Radon and its by-products emit alpha particles which damages lung tissue and increases risk of lung cancer. There are no immediate symptoms of radon exposure, but the risk of developing lung cancer increases with exposure to higher concentrations of radon.

Once you have determined that your house has elevated indoor levels of radon, (*see Radon Measurement tip sheet*) it is highly recommended to have radon mitigation performed to reduce the level. There are a variety of methods of radon mitigation in existence, however the most effective system is sub-slab depressurization. This method uses pipes and a fan to remove radon gas from beneath the concrete floor and foundation before it can enter the home. Radon is then vented above the roof, where it safely disperses in the outdoor environment. Radon mitigation requires technical knowledge and special skills. Check with your local radon program, American Lung Association chapter, or health department for names of certified radon contractors in your area.

Houses can also be built to reduce the amount of radon being allowed in; this is called *radon resistant new construction*. The American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest Health House builder guidelines include these radon resistant new construction strategies. For more information on these guidelines call the Health House program at: (217) 787-5864.

Tips if your planning to instal a radon mitigation system:

- It's best to hire a certified contractor to perform any radon mitigation work. Attempting to do it yourself could result in structural damage to the building.
- Radon mitigation systems cost approximately \$800-\$2,500 with a national average of \$1,200. Since this is a pricey investment, it is best to get estimates from a few different contractors.
- The cost of a radon mitigation system will vary depending upon the size of the house, the house design, the foundation type, the sub-slab material, and the water control system.
- If you are building a new house consider having the builder use radon resistant new construction techniques.
- Once a mitigation system is installed, the home should be re-tested every 2 years to ensure that the system is still operating correctly.

For More Information Please Visit www.HealthHouse.org

Radon Measurement

Tips (cont.):

Radon Measurement

 **HEALTH HOUSE**
Raising the Standards for Healthier Indoor Environments.

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