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Take Action to a Healthy You !

Three Things You Can Do

1. Learn about Radon

What is Radon and why is it a concern?

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas. It is formed by the natural decay of uranium in rock, soil, and water. Naturally existing, low levels of uranium occur widely in Earth's crust. Radon has been found in homes all over the United States. It can be found throughout New Jersey and here in Gloucester County. Several towns along the Delaware River are in areas of concern.

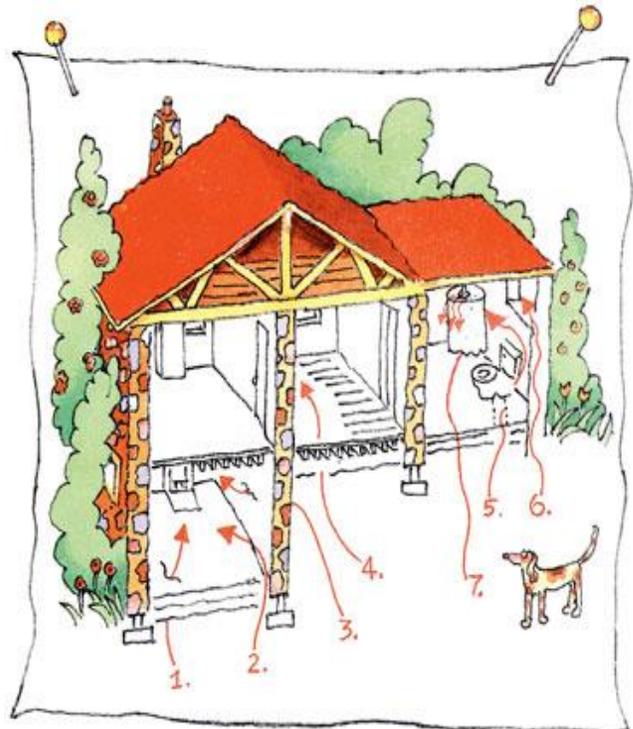
Anyone's home can have a radon problem. On average, one out of every 15 homes in the United States has radon. Radon is widely believed to be the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. It is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers. Unless you test for it, there is no way of telling how much is present your home. Therefore, testing for radon in all homes is highly recommended.

How Does Radon Get Into Your Home?

Radon is a radioactive gas. It comes from the natural decay of uranium that is found in nearly all soils. It typically moves up through the ground to the air above and into your home through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Your home traps radon inside, where it can build up. Any home may have a radon problem. This means new and old homes, well-sealed and drafty homes, and homes with or without basements.

Radon gets in through:

1. Cracks in solid floors
2. Construction joints
3. Cracks in walls
4. Gaps in suspended floors
5. Gaps around service pipes
6. Cavities inside walls



2. Test your home



- Two Short Term Radon Detectors
- Test Instructions
- Chain of Custody Form
- Temperature Indicator
- Humidity Indicator
- First Class Prepaid Postage to the lab

How do you test for radon?

You can't see radon, but it's not hard to find out if you have a radon problem in your home. Testing is easy and should only take a few minutes of your time. There are many kinds of low-cost "do-it-yourself" radon test kits you can get through the mail and in some hardware stores and other retail outlets. Follow the instructions regarding the location and placement of the test kits. They are typically placed on the lowest level of your home.

How do I interpret the results?

The amount of radon in the air is measured in "picocuries per liter of air," or "pCi/L." Corrective action needs to be taken to reduce the radon level if it is greater than or equal to 4pCi/L.

How do you fix a radon problem?

Radon reduction systems work and they are not too costly. These systems involve venting and sealing the lower levels in the home. Some radon reduction systems can reduce radon levels in your home by up to 99%. Even very high levels can be reduced to acceptable levels. You can install the system yourself, if you are experienced in making home repairs or you can hire a New Jersey certified radon mitigation company to do the work for you. In New Jersey it is against the law for uncertified contractors to do this work. Once the work is done you should retest. For a list of certified contractors you can also reach out to the Department of Environmental Protection Radon Program directly at (800)-648-0394 or visit www.njradon.org

3. Spread the word

Tell your family and friends about the health risks of radon. Encourage them to test their homes. To obtain a free Radon Kit and additional information you can call the Gloucester County Department of Health at (856) 218-4170.