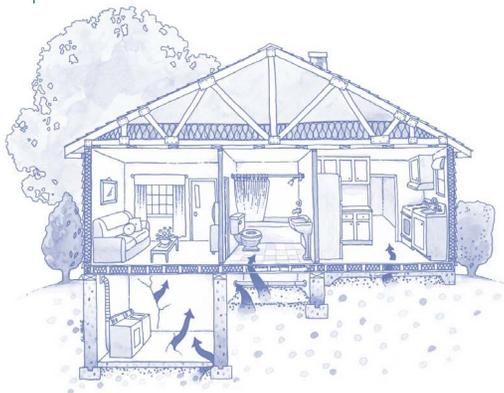


HOW RADON GETS INTO YOUR HOME

Air pressure inside your home is usually lower than pressure in the soil around your home's foundation. When radon gas is present in the soil, your house acts like a vacuum and draws radon in through cracks and other openings



RADON GETS THROUGH:

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

OPTIONS FOR LOWERING RADON LEVELS

- **Seal** all openings or cracks in basement walls and foundation floor to reduce soil gas entry.
 - Install a vent pipe and fan, called **sub-slab ventilation**. This will draw radon below the house and vent it through a pipe to the air above the house where it is quickly diluted.
 - **House Pressurization**, where air is fan-blown into the lower level to create enough indoor pressure to prevent radon from entering the house.
 - **Ventilation with heat recovery** can reduce slightly elevated radon levels as well as improve indoor air quality.
- *****
- ◆ Reducing radon levels is also called **radon mitigation**. Using a certified mitigation contractor is recommended.
 - ◆ The cost for radon mitigation averages about \$1,500



Cortland County Health
Department Division of
Environmental Health

60 Central Avenue, Cortland, New York 13045

Phone: 607-753-5035
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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RADON



CORTLAND
COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RADON

- ◆ Radon is an invisible odorless gas. It comes from the breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water
- ◆ Radon gas is found every in every state in the US as well as around the world.
- ◆ **Cortland County has the highest average basement and lowest living area readings in NYS.**
- ◆ Levels can vary widely, even from home to home in the same neighborhood.
- ◆ Radon gas becomes a health hazard when it accumulates indoors and is breathed in. The radioactive energy bursts can irritate the lung tissue and damage DNA.
- ◆ Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the US after smoking.
- ◆ Radon levels can be lowered, and homes can be built radon-resistant.

Testing for radon is simple and inexpensive !

Two ways to test for Radon

Short-term Testing: This type of test remains in the home for 2 to 90 days depending on the kit purchased. The test contained is placed in the lowest lived-in level of the home for the recommended length of time, then sealed and returned to the company for analysis.

Specific instructions for placement and timing of the test are included with the test kit, so be sure to read and follow them carefully. The cost of the kit generally includes the test container and lab analysis.

In Cortland County, radon testing is generally done from October to April when the windows are closed and the heat is on

Long-term Testing: These tests remain in the home for more than 90 days and will give a reading that is closer to the home's year-round average radon level.

Test Results: What do they mean?

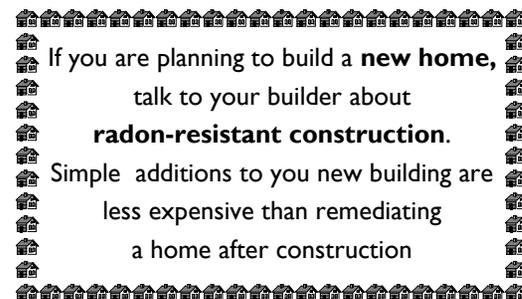
Radon gas is measured in “Pico curies per liter of air” or pCi/L

If the short-term test result is 4 pCi/L or higher, you should confirm this by either:

- A long-term test, or
- Another short-term test.

If the long-term test or average of the 2 short-term tests is 4pCi/L or higher, some action should be taken to fix the home. Radon remediation can be done by certified contractors. A list is available from the health department.

With today's technology radon levels can be reduced in most homes to 2pCi/L or less

 If you are planning to build a **new home**, talk to your builder about **radon-resistant construction**. Simple additions to you new building are less expensive than remediating a home after construction