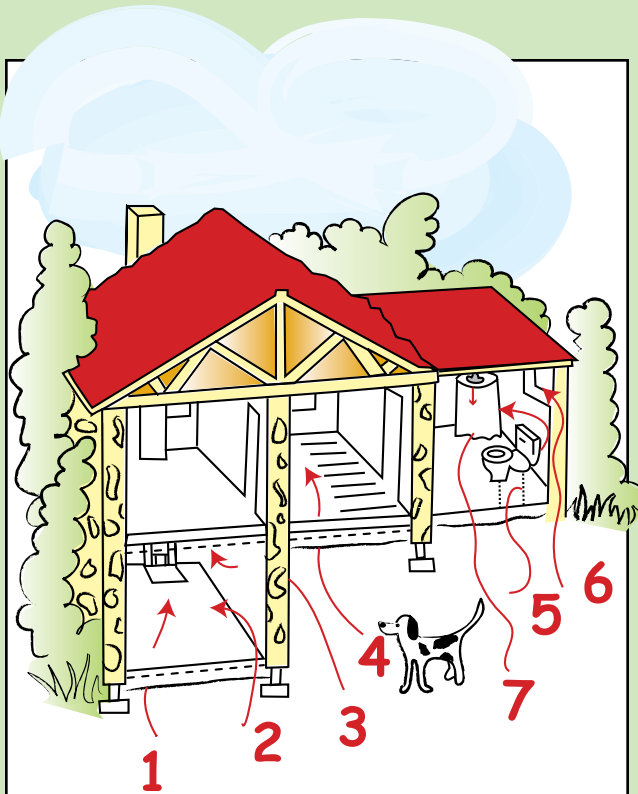


Surgeon General of the United States Health Advisory

Indoor radon gas is a national health problem. Radon causes thousands of deaths each year. Millions of homes have elevated radon levels. Most homes should be tested for radon. When elevated levels are confirmed, the problem should be corrected.



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
7. The water supply

For more information about radon in your county, contact your local Extension office or University of Tennessee Extension at 865-974-8197.

Box for local county info

Visit the UT Extension Health & Safety website at <http://fcs.tennessee.edu/healthsafety/index.htm>

SP688 6/11 5M(Rep) E12-5315-00-058-11 11-0221

Copyright 2007 The University of Tennessee. All rights reserved. This document may be reproduced and distributed for nonprofit educational purposes providing credit is given to University of Tennessee Extension.

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U. S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

The Tennessee Radon Program is a partnership of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and University of Tennessee Extension. This project is funded under an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Radiological Health—Radon Program and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Radon in Tennessee

*The Only Way to Know
Is to Test*

TENNESSEE RADON PROGRAM



Bonnie Hinds, M. S., Extension Assistant
Martha Keel, Ph. D., Professor,
Housing and Environmental Health
Family and Consumer Sciences

What is radon?

Radon is a tasteless, odorless and colorless radioactive gas produced by the decay of uranium. It is found in widely varying amounts in most soil across Tennessee and the U. S.

Why should I be concerned about radon?

Radon gas is radioactive, which means it gives off energy — in this case, in the form of Alpha particles. If these particles are inhaled, they can damage lung tissue and possibly lead to lung cancer. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U. S., following smoking. If you smoke and your home has an elevated radon level, your family's risk of lung cancer is greatly increased.

Why is radon a problem now?

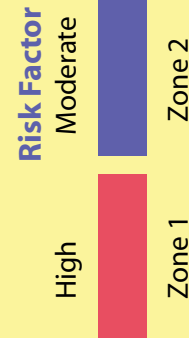
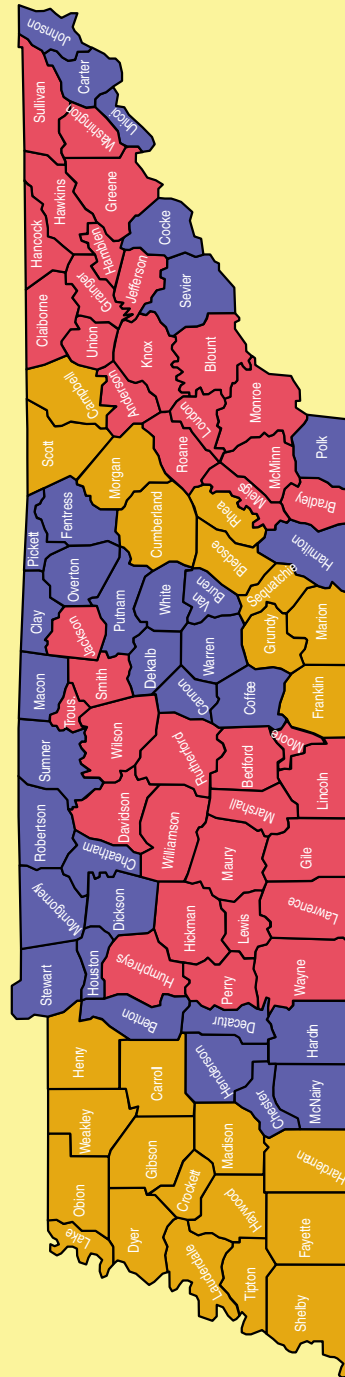
Since the 1970s, housing construction has changed to become more energy efficient. A modern, tightly-built home can allow radon gas to reach dangerous levels, increasing the risk for lung cancer.

What should I do?

The only way to know if your home has radon is to test it.

What if I find my home has dangerous radon levels?

By having a certified radon mitigator install a radon reduction system, you can reduce even high levels of radon gas to levels below the EPA's recommended action level of 4 pCi/L. These systems work and are not too costly.



This map is not intended to determine whether a home in a given zone should be tested for radon. Homes with elevated levels of radon have been found in all three zones. **All homes should be tested, regardless of zone designation.**

How do I test my home for radon?

There are two ways to test for radon: a short-term test or a year-long test.

Short-term testing lasts for two to 90 days, depending on the test device.

Year-long testing is recommended for Tennessee because of the geology. This type of testing gives more accurate test results.

Where can I get a radon test kit?

Radon test kits are available from your local county Extension office and most home and hardware stores or you can call 1-800-232-1139.

How much do they cost?

The short-term test kits are usually less than \$12, and the year-long test kits are usually less than \$30. This price should include a laboratory analysis and all postage.

