

# RADON PROTOCOL

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## What is Radon?

Radon is radioactive gas that is found in soil and rock in all parts of the United States. It is formed by the decay of uranium, a naturally occurring process. Radon can be found in ambient air conditions outdoors everywhere. Radon gas is invisible, and it has no odor or taste.

## What Types of Buildings Contain Radon?

Radon can be found in all types of homes and buildings in the United States. If there is radon gas in the ground, it can seep into a building. Local geology, construction materials and how the home was built are among the factors that can affect radon levels in homes.

## Is Radon Harmful to My Health?

According to the World Health Organization and US EPA, radon gas is carcinogenic. Evidence shows there is a link to lung cancer when exposed to high concentrations of radon over a long period of time.

## How is Radon Measured & What are Acceptable Levels?

Radon levels are measured in "picocuries per liter" or "pCi/L." The higher the level, the greater the risk from long-term exposure. The US EPA recommends that annual average radon levels in a home remain below 4 pCi/L.

## Is Radon Prevalent in My Area?

The US EPA has established (3) radon zones, which are predictive of indoor radon levels across the country. The EPA has a map of radon zones available for reference here:

<https://www.epa.gov/radon/epa-map-radon-zones>

## What Requirements are There for Testing and Radon Reduction Efforts?

Testing and radon reduction efforts are not required by the EPA, however, there are guidelines for homeowners if they choose to test or make reduction efforts. Testing can be completed by a short term test (normally 2-3 days) or a long term test (greater than 90 days). There are also different guidelines and options for radon reduction systems. They are dependent on the style of home, building materials, and foundation type.

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**EPA**

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

[www.epa.gov/radon/citizens-guide-radon-guide-protecting-yourself-and-your-family-radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon/citizens-guide-radon-guide-protecting-yourself-and-your-family-radon)

**CDC**

[https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/community-health/indoor\\_air.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/community-health/indoor_air.htm)