

Hazard: Radon

Identity of Hazard(s): Radon is an odorless, colorless, radioactive gas that occurs naturally from the breakdown of uranium in rocks, soil, and in some cases groundwater. Exposure can occur through breathing outdoor air, in buildings and homes, and by eating or drinking (ingestion). Radon can get into buildings by cracks in solid floors and walls, construction joints, gaps in suspended floors, gaps around service pipes, cavities inside walls or the water supply.¹

Primary Health Outcome(s): Lung Cancer¹

Health Alert! Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, according to EPA estimates. Overall, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year. About 2,900 of these deaths occur among people who have never smoked.²

Gain Control: Actions You Can Take²

- Prevent the radon from entering the home.
 - Reduce the level of radon after it has entered
 - Test your home for radon — it's easy and inexpensive.
 - Fix your home if your radon level is 4 picocuries per liter, or pCi/L, or higher.
 - Radon levels less than 4 pCi/L still pose a risk, and in many cases may be reduced.
 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that all homes be tested for radon. Radon detectors can be purchased or arrangements can be made for qualified testers to come into the home. Some states offer free or low-cost radon test kits.
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Local Resources for Detroit Residents:

- Institute for Population Health: (313) 324-9501

¹http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/brochure/profile_radon.htm

²<http://www.epa.gov/radon/>