

Is radon lurking in your home? Here's why you need to find out

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Radon

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Radon occurs naturally when uranium decays in rocks and soil. It rises through the ground and enters homes through cracks in floors, walls & foundations, or around sump pumps. It can be present in well water.



ABOUT
1 IN 15
homes has high radon levels.



RADON IS A RADIOACTIVE GAS.

You can't see, smell, or taste it.



15,000 - 20,000
people die of radon-related lung cancer in the U.S. every year.

SMOKING INCREASES THIS RISK.

RADON IS THE #2 cause of lung cancer in the U.S.



NEW YORK STATE

residents can order a radon test kit for \$11 from the NYS Department of Health.



Hardware stores also sell kits.

RADON REDUCTION

systems installed by **CERTIFIED RADON MITIGATORS** can reduce high radon levels by up to

99%.



RADON LEVELS CAN CHANGE.

Test your home every few years.

Credit: Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Asbestos, mold and radon: three hazardous substances you never want to find in your home. While all three can be removed and remediated by trained professionals, radon is different, because you can't see, smell or taste it. That doesn't mean radon is harmless. If left untreated, it can be hazardous to your family's health. In fact, it's the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

Where does [radon](#) come from? It occurs naturally when uranium decays in rocks and soil. The gas rises through the ground and enters homes through cracks in floors, walls and foundations, or around sump pumps. Some areas of Western New York have exceptionally high levels of radon.

How can you find out if there are high levels of radon on your home? Test kits are available for \$11 from the New York State Department of Health, or you may purchase one from a hardware store. If testing shows dangerous levels of radon in your home, there are various ways to fix the situation, such as sealing your basement floor and walls or through active soil depressurization, which involves installing a pipe to carry any [radon gas](#) from the basement to the outside of the house.

Remember, [radon levels](#) can change over time, so even if your home was clear when you bought it, you should retest every few years.

Provided by Roswell Park Cancer Institute

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