



Radon in the Learning Environment

What it is. Where it comes from. Why it matters.



WHAT IS RADON

Radon is a **radioactive** gas that comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil and rock. It has:

- No smell, color, or taste
- Can't be seen or felt
- Can only be detected with a test
- The EPA recommends action when levels reach 4.0 picocuries per liter (pCi/L).

HOW DOES IT GET INSIDE?

Radon can:

- Seep through cracks in floors, walls, and foundations
- Enter from the soil beneath a building
- Collect in basements and lower-level rooms, where many classrooms and childcare centers are located
- Attach to dust particles and be breathed in

WHY CHILDREN ARE AT GREATER RISK

- Children breathe faster, taking in more air (and more radon) than adults
- Their lungs are still developing
- They spend up to 70% more time indoors, especially in schools and childcare spaces
- According to the EPA, 1 in 5 schools have at least one classroom with a radon level greater than the EPA limit of 4 pCi/L.

Long-term radon exposure can cause lung cancer — even in people who have never smoked.

21,000

DEATHS PER YEAR IN THE US DUE TO RADON-RELATED LUNG CANCER.





What You Can Do

Test for Radon

Testing is the only way to know your radon level.

Buy kits online, at hardware stores, or through:

- sosradon.org
- lung.org

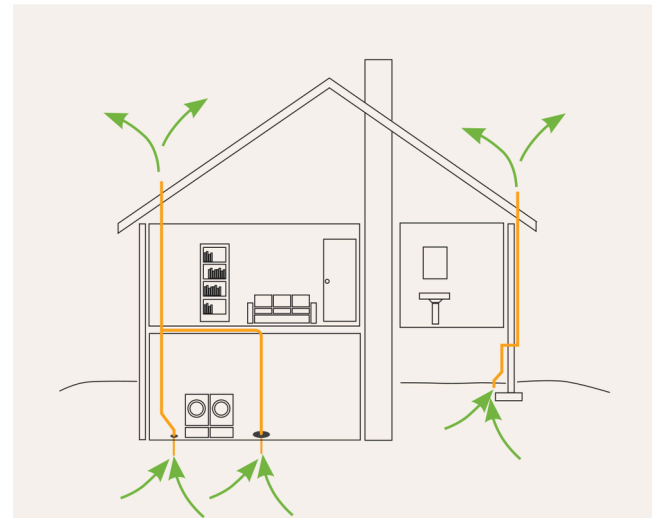
Use certified professionals for the most accurate results:

- PA DEP Radon Division

Test every 2 years, or after major building changes.

Tips for Using a Test Kit

- Follow directions carefully
- Test mid-level in rooms children use, during normal hours
- Avoid testing in kitchens, closets, or bathrooms
- Place kits where kids are near the ground (crawling or sitting)
- Mail the kit to the lab after use — don't move it once it's placed



How to Fix a Radon Problem

If radon is high:

- Install a vent pipe system and fan to pull radon from beneath the building and release it safely outside
- Professional fixes are affordable and highly effective

THERE IS NO SAFE AMOUNT OF RADON EXPOSURE.

Learn more about mitigation here: <http://www.dep.pa.gov/radon>

CHILDREN SPEND **70%** MORE TIME IN SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES AS ADULTS

1 in 5 schools has at least one classroom with radon levels above the EPA limit.