



Indiana
Department
of
Health

Radon

A brief guide on how to keep your home and family safe from radon

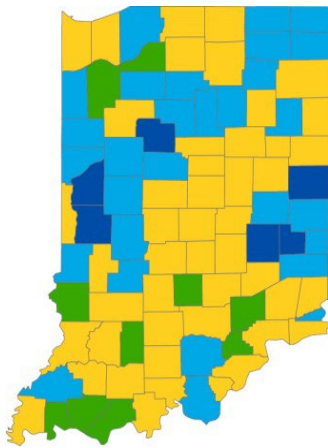


What is radon?

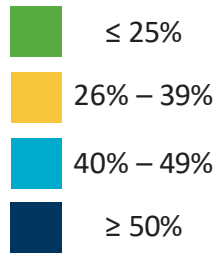
Radon is a colorless and odorless gas commonly found in the soil and throughout Indiana. Because soil is porous, radon moves up from the soil and into the home. Radon gas can become a health concern as it accumulates in the air we breathe.

Why is it a health concern?

Radon gas decays into fine particles that are radioactive. When inhaled, these fine particles can damage the lungs. Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and contributes to the deaths of **21,000 people per year**. In Indiana, it is estimated that nearly **1 in 3 homes have radon levels that pose a significant health risk**.



Percent of IN Properties Tested for Radon that are ≥ 4 pCi/L
(Years 2002 – 2019)



What is a safe level of radon?

Any radon level poses some health risk. While it is not possible to remove radon completely, the best approach is to lower the radon level as much as possible. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set the radon action level at 4 pCi/L (picocuries of radon per liter of air). It is highly recommended that residents with homes that test at or above 4 pCi/L install radon mitigation systems to decrease radon levels.

What can I do?

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) recommends that all Indiana residents test their homes for radon. A radon test is the only way to find out how much radon is in your home. You can test your home yourself or hire a professional. The result from a properly performed test will help you decide if you need to reduce your home's radon levels.



Test for radon

The two basic radon tests available are short- and long-term tests. **Do a short-term test first.** Radon test kits are available for a discount. Your local health department or government agency may offer test kits at reduced prices. Information on where to find radon test kits can be found on the IDOH website. Guidance to help you determine which type of radon test to perform and the recommended action is on the back of this guide.

Reduce radon

If the level is high, then you should hire a licensed radon professional to install a radon mitigation system. Radon mitigation is any process or system used to reduce radon concentrations in buildings. Radon mitigation systems typically use a fan to continuously pull air from the soil and exhaust it outdoors through a pipe. All systems should reduce radon below the EPA action level of 4 pCi/L.



Find more information

Information on radon, where to find radon test kits, and a list of licensed radon professionals can be found on our website at: <https://www.in.gov/health/lead-and-healthy-homes-division/>

Radon Testing Guidelines

Initial short-term test

Result (pCi/L)	Action
0 – 1.9	Retest every 2 to 5 years
2 – 8	Conduct a follow-up test
Greater than 8	Conduct a follow-up test or consider radon mitigation

Second test (either short- or long- term)

0 – 1.9



Retest every 2 to 5 years*

2 – 3.9



Consider a radon mitigation system

4 or greater



Highly recommend a radon mitigation system

** If the initial test was 8 pCi/L or above, consider performing a long-term test.*

**Indiana Department of Health
Lead and Healthy Homes Division Website:**

<https://www.in.gov/health/lead-and-healthy-homes-division/>

Radon Hotline: 1-800-272-9723

Updated 08/2022