



Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that you cannot see, smell or taste. It may be present in both soil and water, and levels can build up inside homes. Unless you test for it, there is no way of knowing if radon is in your home.

How does radon enter a home?

High levels of radon have been found in all types of homes in every area of Vermont. The amount of radon in a home depends on many factors including geology, construction of the home, mechanical systems, and the way the home is used.

Radon in air: Radon is typically found in soil. It moves up through the ground and into the air of your home through cracks in the foundation.

Radon in water: Well water that contains radon may also increase the level of radon in indoor air. Activities like taking showers, doing laundry or running the dishwasher can release radon dissolved in water into the air.

What are the health effects of being exposed to radon in a home?

Everyone is exposed to some radon in indoor and outdoor air. Breathing air with radon increases your risk of getting lung cancer. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among people who do not smoke. Radon is estimated to cause 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year in the United States.

Your risk of getting lung cancer from radon depends on the level of radon in the air you breathe and for how long you have been exposed to it. If you smoke and your home has high levels of radon, your risk of getting lung cancer is especially high.

Over a lifetime, drinking water with radon also poses a risk of stomach cancer. However, the major danger posed by radon in water is the risk of lung cancer when you breathe in the radon that is released from the water.

How do I test my home for radon?

Testing for radon is the only way of knowing whether it is in your home.

Testing for radon in air: Testing for three to 12 months (ideally including a heating season) using a long-term test kit is best. Longer test periods ensure the most accurate measure of actual exposure since radon levels can change daily, weekly and seasonally.



Vermont law does not require a radon in air test as part of a real estate transaction. If you need a quick test for a real estate transaction or other reason, use two short-term radon in air test kits, placed side by side.

Testing for radon in water: Because radon concentrations in well water can vary throughout the year, it can be helpful to test more than once at different times of the year.

Where can I get radon test kits?

Radon in Air Test Kits

You can get a **free long-term radon in air** test kit from the Health Department by:

- Filling out an online form – scan the QR code below with your phone or go to TinyURL.com/radon-kit.



- Calling 800-439-8550 (toll free in Vermont)

You can buy a pair of **short-term radon in air** test kits from the Health Department Lab (call 802-338-4724), private labs or building supply stores.

Radon in Water Test Kits

You can buy a **radon in water** test kit from the Health Department Lab by calling 802-338-4724, or from a certified drinking water lab. Search for a certified drinking water lab at TinyURL.com/certified-lab.

Where can I get more information?

Contact the **Vermont Radon Program**:

- Call: (800) 439-8550
- Email: radon@vermont.gov
- Visit: www.HealthVermont.gov/radon