You can fix a radon problem and protect your family

If your home does have elevated levels of radon, you can install a radon reduction system. These systems should be installed by a certified radon mitigator. Radon reduction systems are low-cost solutions that work. Some radon reduction systems can reduce radon levels in your home by up to 99%. Even very high radon levels can be reduced to acceptable levels with a properly installed radon reduction system. Reducing radon reduces health risks.

New homes can be built with radon-resistant features

When installed properly and completely, simple and inexpensive features can help reduce indoor radon levels in homes. Installing a passive radon reduction system at the time of construction is easier and less expensive than installing a system after the house is completed.

Every new home should be tested after occupancy, even if it was built radon-resistant. If radon levels are still at or above 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L), the passive system should be activated by having a certified mitigator install a vent fan.

You should test for radon

Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from exposure to radon. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), US

General recommend
testing all homes for
radon. Testing is
inexpensive and
easy – it should only
take a few minutes of
your time. Millions of
Americans have already
tested their homes for radon.

You may buy a test kit from the NYSDOH, County Health Departments, hardware stores, or the hardware section of your local department store. In addition, be sure that the analysis of the radon test is performed by a company that is approved through the NYSDOH Environmental **Laboratory Approval** Program (ELAP) www.wadsworth. org/labcert/elap/ radon.html.

by visiting
www. health.ny.gov/forms/
doh-2247.pdf
or call the NYSDOH Bureau
of Environmental Radiation
Protection at 518-402-7556

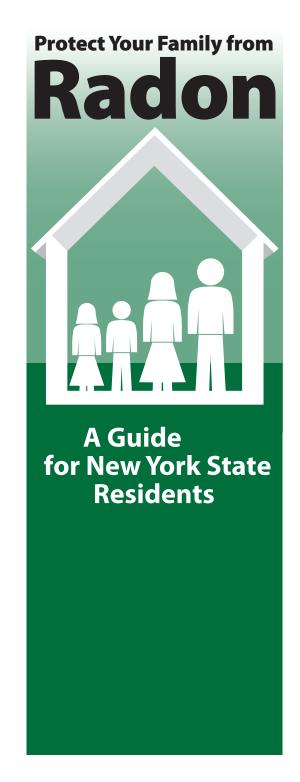
Learn more about radon

For more information about radon, testing and fixing your home, or radon-resistant new construction, contact the New York State Department of Health's Radon Program.

Phone: 518-402-7556

E-mail: radon@health.ny.gov

Visit: www.health.ny.gov/radiation





3168 1/15

What you should know about radon

Radon is a naturally occurring, radioactive gas found in soil and rock. It seeps into homes through cracks in the foundation, walls, and joints. Radon comes from the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water and gets into the air you breathe. It can get into any type of building homes, offices, and schools—but you and your family are likely to get your greatest exposure at home, where you spend most of your time.

Among nonsmokers, radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, Based on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates, lung cancer due to radon exposure claims about 21,000 US lives annually. In many cases lung cancer can be prevented; this is especially true for radon-related lung cancer.

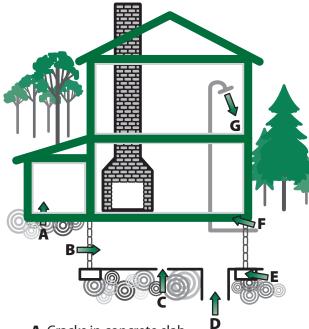
Radon may be a health risk for you and your family

Radon Level	If 1,000 people who smoked were exposed to this level over a lifetime	If 1,000 people who never smoked were exposed to this level over a lifetime
20 pCi/L	About 260 people could get lung cancer	About 36 people could get lung cancer
4 pCi/L	About 62 people could get lung cancer	About 7 people could get lung cancer
0.4 pCi/L	About 3 people could get lung cancer	Less than one person could get lung cancer

pCi/L = picocuries per litre

Source: US EPA Jan 2009 'A Citizen's Guide to Radon'

Major radon entry routes



New York State High Risk Radon Counties

Albany Steuben Erie Orange Allegany Sullivan Otseao Genesee Broome Greene Putnam Tioga **Tompkins** Cattaraugus Herkimer Rensselaer Cayuga Jefferson Saratoga Ulster Chautauqua Lewis Schenectady Washington Chemung Livingston Schoharie Wayne Chenango Madison Schuyler Wyoming Columbia Yates Montgomery Cortland Oneida

ST. LAWRENCE

A Cracks in concrete slab

B Pores and cracks in concrete blocks

C Slab-footing joints

D Exposed soil, as in sump

E Cracks between poured concrete (slab) and blocks

F Loose fitting pipes

Any home can have

G Water

NIAGARA

CHAUTAUOUA CATTARAUGUS

ORLEANS WAYNE GENESEE ONTARIO

ALLEGANY

STEUBEN

Delaware

Dutchess

SENECA CAYUGA CHENANGO

OSWEGO

Onondaga

JEFFERSON

BROOME

Ontario

MONTGOMERY GREENE DELAWARE

HAMII TON

FULTON

WESTCHESTE

NASSAU NEW YORK QUEENS

SUFFOLK

ROCKLAND

CLINTON

ESSEX

WARREN

SARATOGA

High Risk Counties

FRANKLIN

high radon levels Any home can have high radon levels, whether it is old or new, has a basement or is built on a slab. Radon

can leak through cracks in your basement or slab, through the dirt floor of your crawl space, or through openings around your sump pump.