Testing is Simple

Radon levels vary greatly from home to home due to variations in soil chemistry. Radon is easy and inexpensive to detect and homes with high radon levels can be fixed.

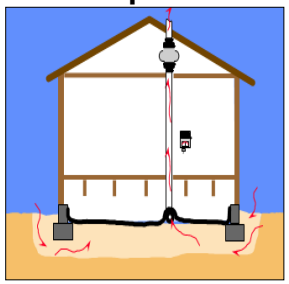
Since radon is invisible to sight, smell and taste, the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon is to use a special detection kit to test your home.

Do-it-yourself test kits provide practical and affordable measurements that can give consumers the information they need about the radon levels in their home, and to help make decisions about fixing their home.

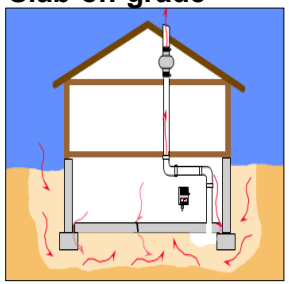
You can get test kits through the mail, and in some hardware stores. To purchase a test kit by phone you can call 800-SOS-RADON.

The Solution is Easy

Crawl space



Slab-on-grade



Active soil depressurization has proven to be a very cost-effective and reliable technique for radon reduction. This technique collects radon from beneath the building before it can enter. How this technique is applied depends upon the type of foundation. Crawl space and slab-on-grade methods are shown at left.

Radon can enter a home through very small openings, such as plumbing, electrical spaces, and openings under tubs and showers.

Radon reduction systems are inexpensive and can reduce radon levels by up to 99 percent.

Radon reduction systems require knowledge and special skills to design. You should hire a contractor who is specifically trained in radon reduction. You can contact the Colorado Radon Office at (800) 846-3986 for names of qualified or state certified contractors.

New homes can be built with radon reduction features. Installing these at the time of construction is easier and less expensive than modifying older homes.

Buying and Selling a Home

The EPA recommends testing all homes for radon. If you are buying or selling a home, the buyer may request radon test results.

It is important to note that radon is listed in the Colorado Seller's Property Disclosure form as a hazard that must be disclosed if it is known to exist or ever have existed.

For more information refer to the EPA Home Buyer's and Seller's Guide to Radon.

For more information:
www.elpasocountyhealth.org

El Paso County, CO
Public Health
Prevent • Promote • Protect

El Paso County Public Health
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Colorado Springs, CO 80907
(719) 578-3199

Acknowledgements :
EPA Citizens Guide to Radon and Air Chek

Facts About
Radon
in the Pikes Peak Region

What is Radon?

Radon is an invisible, odorless, tasteless, radioactive gas that results from the natural breakdown of uranium found in soils, rock, and water.

Radon seeps through the soil, moving into the air and into homes through cracks and small openings in foundations. Homes trap radon in living spaces, where it may build up to dangerous levels.

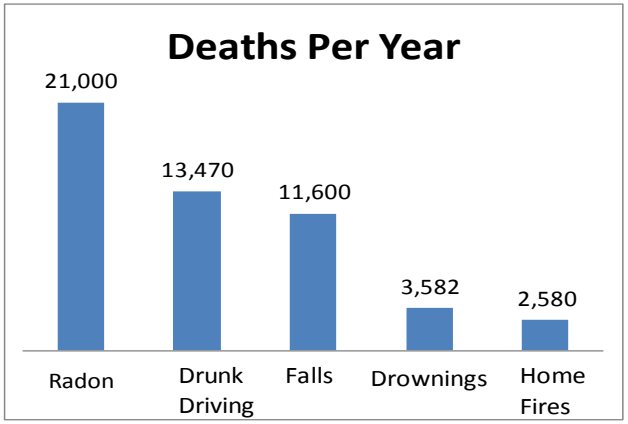
Radon in the United States

The U.S. Surgeon General warns that radon is second as a leading cause of lung cancer in the nation.

If you smoke and your home has high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is especially high.

Radon gas causes cancer when it enters the lungs and naturally decays. This results in the emission of radioactive particles, which can adversely affect lung tissue.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that no one be exposed to 4 or more picocuries per liter (pCi/L). However, the EPA also notes that there is no safe level of radon exposure. The graph below illustrates the number of deaths caused by radon compared to other causes.*



* Radon is estimated to cause about 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year, according to EPA's 2003 Assessment of Risks from Radon in Homes (EPA 402-R-03-003). The numbers of deaths from other causes are taken from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2005-2006 National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Report and 2006 National Safety Council Reports.

Radon In Colorado

Radon in Colorado is generated by the radioactive decay of radium, which is present in uranium bearing soils found throughout the Rocky Mountains and the eastern plains.

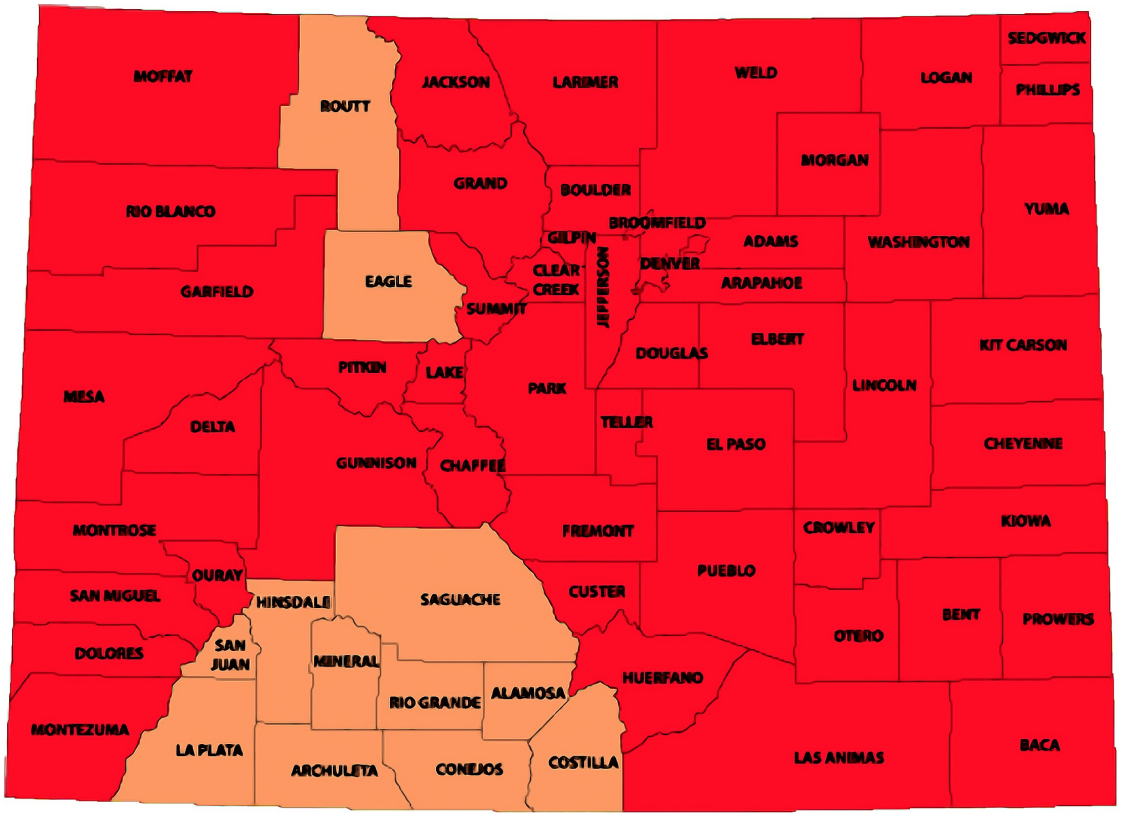
One-fourth to one-half of all homes in Colorado have radon levels in excess of 4pCi/L; the level at which the EPA recommends action be taken.

Radon In El Paso County

El Paso County has been designated by the EPA as Zone 1 - High Radon Potential.

During the years 2005-2010, 8,729 El Paso County home radon test results were submitted to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Of those, 4,050 (or 46%) homes tested ≥4 pCi/L of radon.

Colorado Radon Map



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