You can fix a radon problem

There are several proven ways to reduce radon in your home, but the one most used is a vent pipe system and fan, which pulls radon from beneath the house and vents it to the outside. Radon contractors can use other methods that may also work in your home. The right system depends on the design of your home and other factors. Crawl space and slab-on-grade methods are shown below.

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

Facts About Radon in the Pikes Peak Region

What is Radon?

- Radon is an invisible, odorless, tasteless, radioactive gas.
- It comes from the natural breakdown of uranium found in soils, rock, and water.
- Because radon gas is odorless and invisible, the only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test.

Crawl space

Slab-on-grade

For more information:
www.elpasocountyhealth.org

El Paso County Public Health
1675 W. Garden of the Gods Rd., Ste. 2044
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
(719) 578-3199

Acknowledgements:
EPA Citizens Guide to Radon and Air Chek
Radon is a Health Problem

The U.S. Surgeon General warns that radon is the second 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.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that radon causes more than 20,000 deaths from lung cancer each year in the U.S.

Test Your Home for Radon

The EPA recommends testing all homes for radon. Testing will help you know if your radon levels are unsafe.

Radon is easy 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.

How to Get a Radon Test Kit

- Buy a test kit online or at your local home improvement or hardware store.
- Order by calling 1-800-SOS-RADON.
- Request a test kit from your state radon program: www.epa.gov/radon

Fixing Your Home

Radon reduction systems can reduce radon levels by up to 99 percent. Radon reduction systems require knowledge and special skills to design.

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.

Information for Renters

Find out if the building you live in has been tested for radon. If your building has not been tested for radon, ask the owner to test, or test your own apartment or house.

If your test shows high radon levels, notify the building owner of the test results. Discuss the need for additional testing and repairs.

Landlords in Colorado aren’t required to test for radon or to mitigate high radon levels.

The EPA has a renters guide for tenants. It can be found at www.epa.gov/radon.

Buying and Selling a Home

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.

If you are buying or selling a home, the buyer may request radon test results. If you are selling a home, and you know the home has radon, or had radon in the past, you must provide this information in the Colorado Seller’s Property Disclosure form.

How Radon Enters Homes

Radon seeps through the soil, and moves 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 El Paso County

Twenty-five to 50 percent of all homes in Colorado have high radon levels. Radon levels vary greatly from home to home.

El Paso County and the state of Colorado are in “Zone 1” according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This means the state and county have a potential for high radon levels.