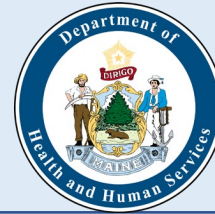


Radon In Maine



What is Radon?

- Radon is a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas found in the air and water.
- Radon comes from the breakdown of uranium in rocks and soil.
- When radon enters a home or building, it can become trapped and build up to an unsafe level.

What are the health effects of radon exposure?

- Prolonged exposure to high radon levels increases the risk of lung cancer.
- Radon decays into radioactive particles that can get trapped in your lungs when you breathe.
- Radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S and is associated with an estimated 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year.

What levels of radon are considered safe?

- The U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) advises fixing homes and buildings with air radon levels over 4 pCi/L, and consider fixing homes or buildings between 2-4 pCi/L.
- Consider installing a water mitigation system if radon levels in water are 4,000 pCi/L or greater.

What buildings can have high radon levels?

- Any building can have radon, whether old or new, well-sealed or drafty, or with or without a basement.
- Radon enters homes and buildings through cracks in the foundation, crawl spaces, and openings around floor drains.
- Radon levels are usually higher in basements, cellars, or rooms in contact with the ground.

How many Maine homes have high radon levels?

- 1 out of every 3 homes in Maine have elevated radon levels.
- The average radon level in Maine is 5.9 pCi/L.
- Radon levels vary from building to building and the only way to know a radon level is to test.

Who can test for Radon?

- Homeowners or occupants can test their home for radon using a radon test kit if the property is not for sale.
- If the property is for sale, the test must be performed by a Maine registered radon tester.

How are high radon levels fixed?

- A mitigation system can lower radon to acceptable levels.
- A sub-slab depressurization system or recovery ventilation system are ways to lower radon levels in the air.
- An aeration system or granular activated carbon (GAC) system lowers radon levels in water.

Where can I learn more about radon?

- Visit the State of Maine Radon website at www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/healthy-living/health-and-safety/indoor-safety/radon

