

U.S. EPA Assessment of Risks from Radon in Homes

In June 2003, the EPA revised its risk estimates for radon exposure in homes. EPA estimates that about 21,000 annual lung cancer deaths are radon related. EPA also concluded that the effects of radon and cigarette smoking are synergistic, so that smokers are at higher risk from radon. EPA's revised estimates are based on the National Academy of Sciences 1998 BEIR VI (Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation) Report which concluded that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking.

Surgeon General Health Advisory

"Indoor radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and breathing it over prolonged periods can present a significant health risk to families all over the country. It's important to know that this threat is completely preventable. Radon can be detected with a simple test and fixed through well-established venting techniques."

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State Radon Offices (www.epa.gov/iaq/wherelive.html)

Call your state radon office for additional help with any of your radon questions. Up-to-date information on how to contact your state radon office is also available on EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/iaq/wherelive.html, or call EPA's toll free Indoor Air Quality Information Clearinghouse (IAQ INFO) at (800) 438-4318 to obtain the current listing.

	Local-Toll	Toll-Free		Local-Toll	Toll-Free
Alabama	334-206-5391	800-582-1866	Montana	406-841-5280	800-546-0483
Alaska	907-474-7201	800-478-8324	Nebraska	402-471-0594	800-334-9491
Arizona	602-255-4845		Nevada	775-687-5394 x275	
Arkansas	501-661-2301	800-482-5400	New Hampshire	603-271-4674	800-852-3345 x4674
California	916-449-5674	800-745-7326	New Jersey	609-984-5425	800-648-0394
Colorado	303-692-3420	800-846-3986	New Mexico	505-827-1093	
Connecticut	860-509-7367		New York	518-402-7556	800-458-1158 x27556
Delaware	302-739-4731	800-464-4357	North Carolina	919-571-4141	
District of Columbia	202-535-2999		North Dakota	701-328-5188	800-252-6325
Florida	850-245-4288	800-543-8279	Ohio	614-644-2727	800-523-4439
Georgia	404-651-5120	800-745-0037	Oklahoma	405-702-5165	
Hawaii	808-586-4700		Oregon	503-731-4014 x664	
Idaho	208-332-7319	800-445-8647	Pennsylvania	717-783-3594	800-23RADON
Illinois	217-782-1325	800-325-1245	Puerto Rico	787-274-7815	
Indiana	317-233-7147	800-272-9723	Rhode Island	401-222-2438	
Iowa	515-281-4928	800-383-5992	South Carolina	803-898-3893	800-768-0362
Kansas	785-296-1560	800-693-5343	South Dakota	605-773-3151	800-438-3367
Kentucky	502-564-4856		Tennessee	615-687-7000	800-232-1139
Louisiana	225-925-7042	800-256-2494	Texas	512-834-6688	800-572-5548
Maine	207-287-5676	800-232-0842	Utah	801-536-4250	800-458-0145
Maryland (EPA Region 3)	215-814-2086		Vermont	802-865-7730	800-439-8550
Massachusetts	413-586-7525	800-RADON95	Virginia	804-786-5932	800-468-0138
Michigan	517-335-8037	800-723-6642	Washington	360-236-3253	
Minnesota	651-215-0909	800-798-9050	West Virginia	304-558-6772	800-922-1255
Mississippi	601-987-6893	800-626-7739	Wisconsin	608-267-4795	888-569-7236
Missouri	573-751-6160	800-669-7236	Wyoming	307-777-6015	800-458-5847

Tribal Radon Program Offices

Hopi Tribe (Arizona)	928-734-3100
Inter-Tribal Council of America	602-307-1509
Navajo Nation	928-871-7672

RADON RISK IF YOU SMOKE

Radon Level	If 1,000 people who smoked were exposed to this level over a lifetime* . . .	The risk of cancer from radon exposure compares to** . . .	WHAT TO DO: Stop Smoking and . . .
20 pCi/L	About 260 people could get lung cancer	◀ 250 times the risk of drowning	Fix your home
10 pCi/L	About 150 people could get lung cancer	◀ 200 times the risk of dying in a home fire	Fix your home
8 pCi/L	About 120 people could get lung cancer	◀ 30 times the risk of dying in a fall	Fix your home
4 pCi/L	About 62 people could get lung cancer	◀ 5 times the risk of dying in a car crash	Fix your home
2 pCi/L	About 32 people could get lung cancer	◀ 6 times the risk of dying from poison	Consider fixing between 2 and 4 pCi/L
1.3 pCi/L	About 20 people could get lung cancer	(Average indoor radon level)	(Reducing radon levels below 2 pCi/L is difficult)
0.4 pCi/L		(Average outdoor radon level)	

Note: If you are a former smoker, your risk may be lower.

It's never too late to reduce your risk of lung cancer. Don't wait to test and fix a radon problem. If you are a smoker, stop smoking.

RADON RISK IF YOU'VE NEVER SMOKED

Radon Level	If 1,000 people who never smoked were exposed to this level over a lifetime* . . .	The risk of cancer from radon exposure compares to** . . .	WHAT TO DO:
20 pCi/L	About 36 people could get lung cancer	◀ 35 times the risk of drowning	Fix your home
10 pCi/L	About 18 people could get lung cancer	◀ 20 times the risk of dying in a home fire	Fix your home
8 pCi/L	About 15 people could get lung cancer	◀ 4 times the risk of dying in a fall	Fix your home
4 pCi/L	About 7 people could get lung cancer	◀ The risk of dying in a car crash	Fix your home
2 pCi/L	About 4 people could get lung cancer	◀ The risk of dying from poison	Consider fixing between 2 and 4 pCi/L
1.3 pCi/L	About 2 people could get lung cancer	(Average indoor radon level)	(Reducing radon levels below 2 pCi/L is difficult)
0.4 pCi/L		(Average outdoor radon level)	

Note: If you are a former smoker, your risk may be higher.

*Lifetime risk of lung cancer deaths from EPA Assessment of Risks from Radon in Homes (EPA 402-R-03-003).

**Comparison data calculated using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 1999-2001 National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Reports.