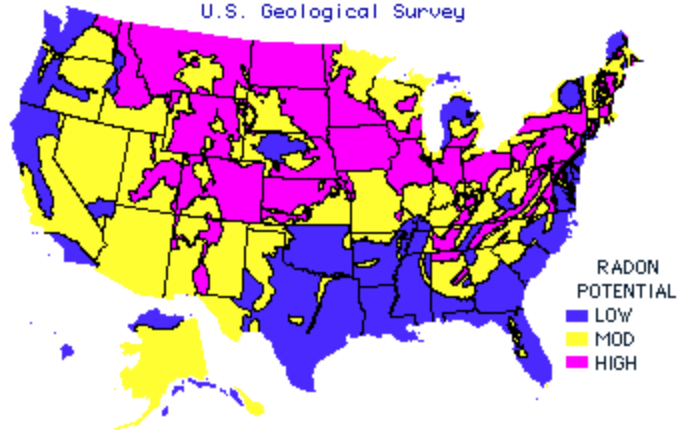


WHAT IS RADON?

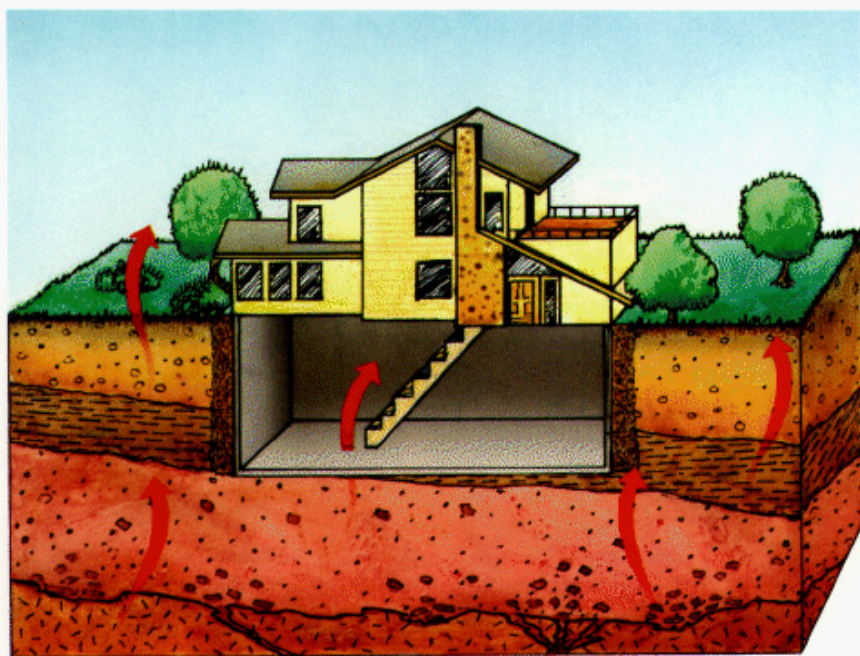
Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that you can not see, taste, or smell. It is found in soil, rock, and water.

Radon is found in all of the 50 United States. About 1 out of 15 homes in the US have high radon levels.

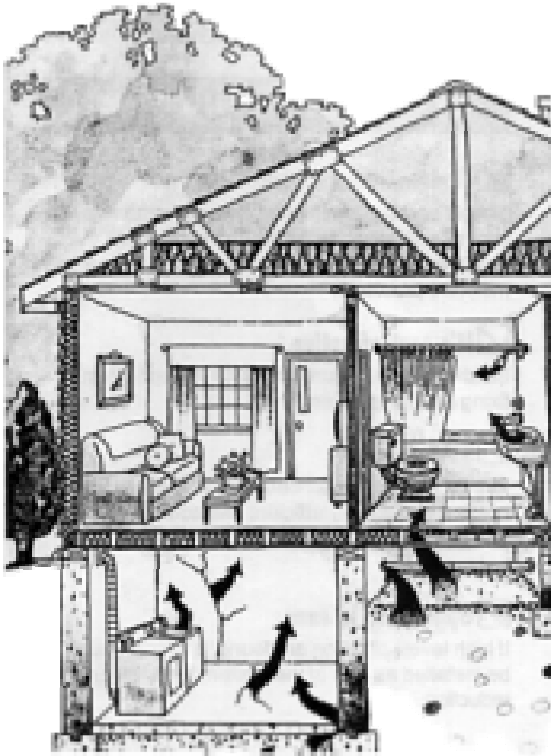
GEOLOGIC RADON POTENTIAL OF THE UNITED STATES
U.S. Geological Survey



Radon that is present in surrounding soil or in well water can be a source of radon in a home.



RADON EXPOSURE

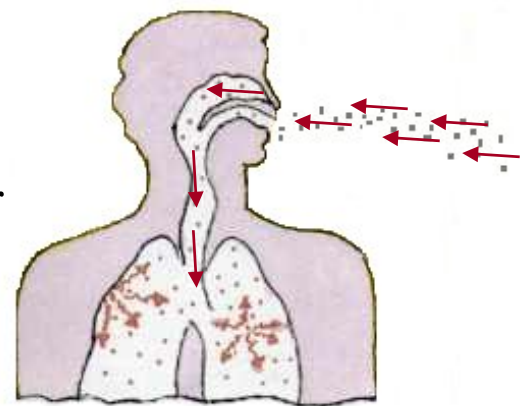


How does Radon Enter Homes ?

- ◆ Radon most commonly enters homes through cracks, pores, and openings.
- ◆ A small amount enters through well water.
- ◆ Highest radon levels are usually found in the lowest areas of a home such as basements and crawl spaces.

Health Effects

- ◆ Radon causes lung damage which can lead to lung cancer over the course of your lifetime.
- ◆ Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer.
- ◆ The chances of developing lung cancer are much greater for those who smoke and are exposed to radon.
- ◆ There are no known short-term health effects from exposure to radon.



PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY FROM RADON

Testing for Radon

All homes should be tested for radon. Testing is simple and inexpensive. People living in base housing, should contact the housing department for testing. There are short-term and long-term radon tests. The test kits must meet the Environmental Protection Agency requirements.

Radon levels are given in picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L). A picocurie is a measure of radiation. The average US indoor air level is 1.3 pCi/L. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that indoor radon levels should be below 4 pCi/L.

Lowering Radon Levels

There are several methods that can be used to lower radon levels in your home.

- Ventilation (mechanical)
- Reversing the flow of radon
- House pressurizing
- Opening windows, doors, and vents (short-term)
- Sealing cracks and other holes in the foundation

