

# **EPA - RADON**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

**[www.epa.gov/radon/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/radon/index.html)**

**\*\*\*\*\* EPA states the health dangers caused by Radon. Radon can be reduces in the Crawl Space by Ventilating the Crawl Space!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

## **January 2005 is National Radon Action Month!**

EPA and organizations nationwide dedicate January as [National Radon Action Month](#) to encourage the public to test their homes for radon and get radon problems fixed. Did you know?

- Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer
- Nearly one in 15 homes in the U.S. has a high level of indoor radon
- The U.S. Surgeon General and EPA recommend all homes be tested for radon.
- Homes with high radon levels can be fixed.

Read the 2004 proclamation encouraging all Americans to join in this crucial effort and learn more about the health risk posed by radon, test for it, and when warranted take steps to reduce your exposure to radon.

## **Assessment of Risks from Radon in Homes**

The Agency has updated the estimates of lung cancer risks from indoor radon based on the National Academy of Sciences' (NAS) report on radon, the Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR) VI Report. These new estimates will be used to update estimated lung cancer risks from radon in various publications

## **American Society of Home Inspector's (ASHI) Radon Mitigation System Inspection Checklist**

Home inspectors now have a new service to offer their home inspection clients; radon mitigation system inspections. The tool that makes this possible is the [Radon Mitigation System Inspection Checklist](#) (available here as a 42.9KB PDF file), created by the American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI), in cooperation with the U.S. EPA's Indoor Environments Division. The *Checklist* promotes radon awareness, testing and mitigation with people who are having their home, or prospective home, inspected. With just seven inspection elements, the *Checklist* takes under 15 minutes to complete. Inspectors can easily integrate it into a general home inspection. The inspection results indicate whether the home has a mitigation system, and if so, whether the system is active or passive. It also encourages the consumer to verify that indoor radon levels are below 4 pCi/L, and to consult a qualified mitigator if the inspection notes any apparent deficiencies.

## **Sources of Radon**

Earth and rock beneath home; well water; building materials.

## **What are the Health Effects From Exposure to Radon?**

No immediate symptoms. Based on an [updated Assessment of Risk for Radon in Homes](#), radon in indoor air is estimated to cause about 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States. Smokers are at higher risk of developing Radon-induced lung cancer. Lung cancer is the only health effect which has been definitively linked with radon exposure. Lung cancer would usually occur years (5-25) after exposure. There is no evidence that other respiratory diseases, such as asthma, are caused by radon exposure and there is no evidence that children are at any greater risk of radon induced lung cancer than adults.

## **Radon Mitigation Standards – EPA Publication 402-R-93-078, October 1993**

1.0 **BACKGROUND:** The 1988 Indoor Radon Abatement Act (IRAA) required the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a voluntary program to evaluate and provide information on contractors who offer radon control services to homeowners. The Radon Contractor Proficiency (RCP) Program was established to fulfill this portion of the IRAA. In December 1991, EPA published “Interim Radon Mitigation Standards” as initial guidelines for evaluation the performance of radon mitigation contractors under the RCP program.

2.0 **PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Radon Mitigation Standards (RMS) is to provide radon mitigation contractors with uniform standards that will ensure quality and effectiveness in the design, installation, and evaluation of radon mitigation systems in detached and attached residential buildings three stories or less in height. The RMS is intended to serve as a model set of requirements which can be adopted or modified by state and local jurisdictions to fulfill objectives of their specific radon contractor certification or licensure programs.

9.10 **Crawlspace Depressurization:** A radon control technique designed to achieve lower air pressure **in the crawlspace relative to indoor air pressure by use of a fan-powered vent drawing air from within the crawlspace.**

9.14 **Mechanically Ventilated Crawlspace System:** A radon control technique designed to increase ventilation within a crawlspace, achieve higher air pressure in the crawlspace relative to air pressure in the soil beneath the crawlspace, or achieve lower air pressure **in the crawlspace relative to air pressure in the living spaces, by use of a fan.**