

## Radon Myths and Facts

(From "A Citizen's Guide to Radon")

**MYTH:** Scientists are not sure that radon really is a problem.

**FACT:** Although some scientists dispute the precise number of deaths due to radon, all the major health organizations agree with estimates that radon causes thousands of preventable lung cancer deaths every year.

**MYTH:** Radon testing is difficult, time-consuming and expensive.

**FACT:** Radon testing is easy. You can test your home yourself or hire a qualified radon test company. Either approach takes only a small amount of time and effort.

**MYTH:** Radon affects only certain kinds of homes.

**FACT:** House construction can affect radon levels. However, radon can be a problem in homes of all types: old homes, new homes, drafty homes, insulated homes, homes with basements and homes without basements. Construction materials, local geology and how the home was built are among the factors that can affect radon levels in homes.

**MYTH:** Radon is only a problem in certain parts of the country.

**FACT:** High radon levels have been found in every state. Radon problems do vary from area to area, but the only way to know the radon level in your home is to test it.

**MYTH:** Homes with radon problems can't be fixed.

**FACT:** There are simple solutions to radon problems in homes. Hundreds of thousands of homeowners have already fixed radon problems, which can be mitigated for \$800 to \$2500 (an average cost of \$1200).

**MYTH:** Radon testing devices are not reliable and difficult to find.

**FACT:** Reliable and accurate testing devices are available from qualified radon testers and companies. The testing devices can be purchased by phone or mail-order, in hardware stores and other retail outlets.

**MYTH:** A neighbor's test result is a good indication of radon levels in my home.

**FACT:** Not true. Radon levels can vary greatly from home to home. The **ONLY** way to know if your own home has a radon problem is to test it.

**MYTH:** Everyone should test their water for radon.

**FACT:** Although radon gets into some homes through water, it is important to first test the air in the home. If your water comes from a public supply that uses ground water, call the water supplier. If high radon levels are found and the home has a private well, call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 for information on testing your water.

**MYTH:** It's difficult to sell homes where radon problems have been discovered.

**FACT:** Where the radon problem has been fixed, home sales have not been blocked or frustrated. The added protection is sometimes a good selling point.

**MYTH:** I've lived in my house for so long, it doesn't make sense to test now.

**FACT:** You reduce your risk of lung cancer when you reduce radon levels, even if you have lived with a radon problem for a long time.