

For more
INFORMATION

**NYS Department of Health
Center for Environmental Health**

Information line:

518-402-7556
800-458-1158

Website:

[health.ny.gov/environmental/
radiological/radon](http://health.ny.gov/environmental/radiological/radon)

Email:

radon@health.ny.gov



An important message from...

**Speaker of the Assembly
Carl E. Heastie**

Dear Friend,

Radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the breakdown of elements like uranium found naturally in many rocks and soils. It can move up through the ground and leak into the air in your home through cracks in your basement or slab, the dirt floor of your crawl space or openings around your sump pump. A buildup of radon in the air you breathe can cause lung cancer.



This hazard could be lurking in your home, and you may not even know it. You can't see, smell or taste it. Testing is the only way to know your level of exposure.

This brochure provides some information about radon exposure at home. Please contact my office if I can assist you further with this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly

District Office

250 Broadway, Suite 2301
New York, NY 10007
212-312-1400

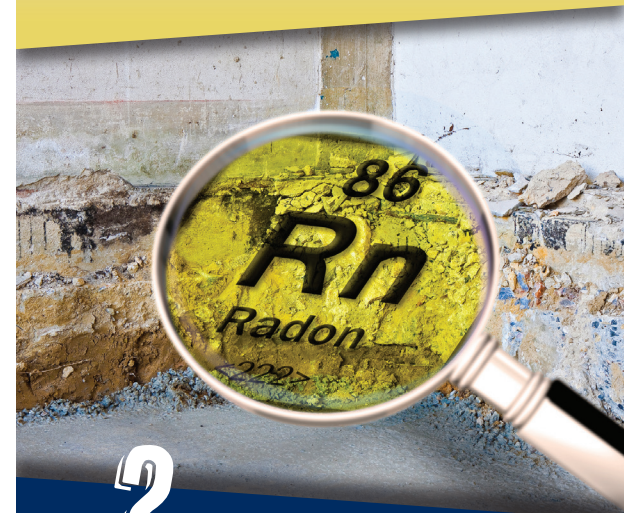
Albany Office

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Albany, NY 12248
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Updated 1/23

What you should
know about
RADON
and your home



Take the quiz inside and
find out how much you know about
radon gas and its harmful effects.



Courtesy of...

**Speaker of the Assembly
Carl E. Heastie**



Take the **RADON** quiz



How much do you know about radon?

Answer these true or false questions and find out.

1 If there were high levels of radon in my house, I would know it.

FALSE

Radon is a naturally occurring colorless, odorless gas that you can't see, smell or taste. The only way to know if there are elevated levels of radon in your home is to test for it.

2 Scientists aren't sure radon is an actual health risk.

FALSE

Although the exact number of deaths caused by radon is difficult to pinpoint, many major health organizations agree it causes thousands of preventable lung cancer deaths each year. If you are a smoker exposed to elevated levels of radon, your risk level is even higher.

3 Radon affects only certain kinds of homes and is only a problem in certain parts of the state.

FALSE

Radon levels can be a problem in any home: with a basement or built on a slab, old or new and drafty or insulated. Radon has been found in homes within every county in New York.

4 Radon testing is difficult, time-consuming and expensive.

FALSE

Testing for radon in your home is actually easy and inexpensive. It usually takes just a little of your time.

5 Radon kits are reliable and easy to find.

TRUE

Reliable test kits are available through the mail and in hardware and other retail stores. For more information visit health.ny.gov/environmental/radiological/radon/testkit.htm.

6 Homes with radon can be fixed.

TRUE

There are simple and cost-effective ways to fix radon problems in a home. Price estimates can vary depending on your home and the extent of the radon problem. You can find a list of local contractors at health.ny.gov/environmental/radiological/radon/mitigation/county_map.htm or by calling the NYS Department of Health's Environmental Health Helpline at 800-458-1158.

7 You should not rely on a neighbor's test results to indicate if your home has elevated levels of radon or not.

TRUE

Just like how levels vary from state to state, the presence of radon can be different from home to home. The only way to know if you have elevated levels of radon is to test for it.

8 It's difficult to sell homes where elevated levels of radon have been discovered.

FALSE

Home sales have not been hurt in areas where elevated levels of radon have been fixed. In fact, sometimes the added protection is a good selling point.

9 I've lived in my home for so long, it won't matter if I take action now.

FALSE

You will reduce your risk of lung cancer as you reduce radon levels, even if you've lived with a radon problem for many years.