

# Radon?

I've heard of it, but  
I'm not sure what it is.



It's colorless, odorless, and radioactive. It enters buildings through cracks in foundations, sump crocks and utility lines. Radon decays pretty quickly and gives off radioactive particles. It can cause lung cancer.

What Are the Symptoms of Radon Exposure? You won't have symptoms of radon poisoning right away. Instead, health problems from exposure, such as lung cancer, show up after many years. Lung cancer may start as a nagging cough, shortness of breath, or wheezing that doesn't go away.

What does radon gas do to you? When you breathe in radon gas, radioactive particles can get trapped in your lungs. Over time, these radioactive particles increase the risk of lung cancer. It may take years before health problems appear. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that radon causes 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year.

Is it OK to live in a house with radon? Fix the home if the radon level is 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or higher. Radon levels less than 4 pCi/L still pose a risk and, in many cases, may be reduced. Take steps to prevent device interference when conducting a radon test.

Dodge County Public Health says that radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. They note that one out of 10 Wisconsin homes has high radon levels. Free radon test kits are available at the Dodge County Public Health Department at 199 County Road D F in Juneau. For more information call 920-386-3670.

To find a qualified radon mitigation contractor Contact your State Radon Program  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/radon/radon-proficiency.htm>