Test Your Home for Radon

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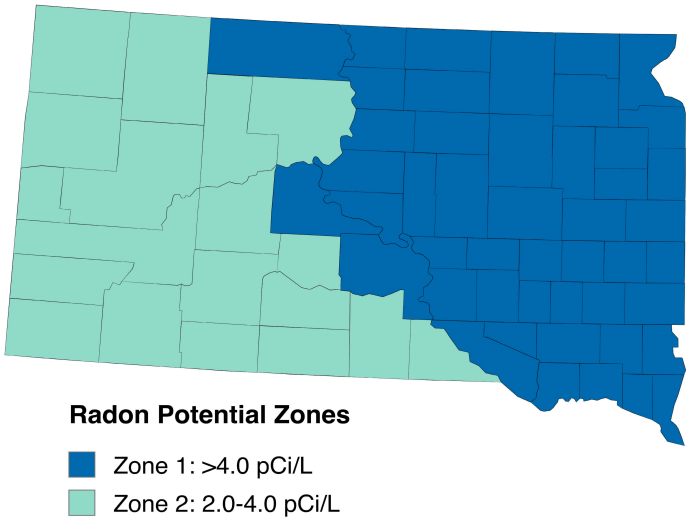
Testing is easy and low-cost — and it could save your life.

You can't see radon gas. You can't smell it. But it's dangerous.

Breathing in high levels of radon can raise your risk of lung cancer.

Radon Potential by SD County



Testing your home is the only way to find out if you have a radon problem.

If you do, then you can fix it.

Why is radon dangerous?

Radon comes naturally from rocks and dirt in the ground. There's always some radon in the air around us. The problem is when radon gas from underneath a home leaks in through cracks or gaps. Too much of it can build up inside.

When you breathe in radon, radioactive particles from the decay of radon gas can get trapped in your lungs. Over time, they can cause **lung cancer**.
The risks from radon depend on two things:

- **How much:** High radon levels are more dangerous.
- **How long:** The more contact you have with radon gas, the greater your risk.

After cigarette smoking, radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer deaths in the United States. Radon causes about 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year.

Tobacco and Radon

Smoking and radon exposure each increase the risk of lung cancer, and the combination increases the risk even more.

People who smoke and live in homes with high radon levels have a risk of lung cancer **10 times higher** than people who do not smoke and live in homes with high radon levels.

SOUTH DAKOTA QUITLINE

Call 1-866-SD-QUITS or visit sdquitline.com for free support and resources to help you quit smoking.

Sources: CDC, EPA, SD DANR, American Lung Association

SOUTH DAKOTA CANCER COALITION

Any home can have a radon problem.

High radon levels can be a risk anywhere in any state. Both old homes and new homes can have radon problems. So can homes with basements and homes without them. And two houses next door to each other could have very different radon levels.

That's why it's so important to test every home.

Test your home.

The good news is that testing your home for radon is easy.

You can do it yourself or hire someone to do it for you.

- **Get a radon test kit.** Visit the SD Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources (SD DANR) website for a free kit and testing resources in your area. You can either hire a radon tester or purchase a radon test kit from a hardware store, or call **1-800-SOS-RADON**.
- **Set up the testing device to check the air for radon.** Depending on the type of test, it may take just a few days or many months to finish the test.
- Send the device to a lab and wait for the results.

If your test results show a radon level of **4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or higher**, you need to fix the problem.

If you have high radon levels, take action.

Finding out that your home has high radon levels can be scary. But you can make your home safer, and even very high levels can be reduced to acceptable levels.

Here's how:

- **Visit the SD DANR radon website** for advice and to find a specialist — called a mitigation contractor — to fix your home.
- **Test your home again** after repairs are made.

Free Kits Available

SD DANR has free radon test kits for South Dakota residents! Use the QR code below to visit the DANR radon website and request your kit.

Radon in your home can be a serious health risk, but it's a problem you can fix. If you haven't tested your home for radon, get a test kit now.

Learn More About Radon:

- cdc.gov/radon
- epa.gov/radon
- lung.org/clean-air/indoor-air/indoor-air-pollutants/radon
- cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/substances/radon/

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