



SRC Environmental Analytical Laboratories Radon Testing

What is Radon?

Radon is a radioactive gas that is colourless, odourless and tasteless. It is formed by the natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water. Radon that escapes from the ground into the outdoor air is diluted to low concentrations and is not a concern. However, radon that enters an enclosed space, such as a home, can sometimes accumulate to high levels.

What is the Risk?

According to The Lung Association, radon gas is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in Canada. Radon can cause lung cell death or damage. Approximately seven per cent of Canadian homes have elevated levels of radon and if left that way, could increase the chance of the occupants developing lung cancer. With lung cancer claiming the lives of about 20,500 Canadians each year and roughly 16 per cent of lung cancers deaths in Canada are attributable to radon exposure, that means roughly 3,280 people per year die from a cause that is preventable.

How Can Radon Enter Your Home?

During much of the year, the air pressure inside your home is lower than in the soil surrounding the foundation. This difference in pressures draws air and other gases in the soil, including radon, into the home. Soil gas containing radon can enter a house any place it finds an opening where the house contacts the soil. These openings can be present even in well-built and new houses.



CALA
Testing
Accreditation No. A 2472

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Which Homes are at Risk?

Almost all homes have some radon. Health Canada's testing has found that certain geographic locations may have higher probabilities of elevated levels of radon. Radon levels can vary dramatically even between similar homes located next to each other. The amount of radon in a home will depend on many factors such as soil characteristics, construction type, foundation, occupant lifestyle and weather. ***The only way to determine whether your home has a high radon level is to test for it.***

What Can You Do?

The Government of Canada recommends using long-term test devices for a minimum of three months, in fall, winter and early spring when the windows are closed, to test for radon levels in homes. If your home tests positive for high levels of radon, there are several corrective actions you can take. The Saskatchewan Research Council's Environmental Analytical Laboratories provides residential radon testing kits and analysis for homeowners anywhere in the world. The testing is inexpensive and easy-to-use.

Testing

Because radon levels vary daily, it is preferable to make the test period as long as possible to determine an average level.

Alpha track detector:

This detector consists of a piece of a special plastic film inside a small plastic container. Air diffuses through small openings in the container. When alpha particles from radon strike the detector, they make microscopic tracks on the surface of the plastic film. The radon level is calculated from the number of tracks and the number of days the detector is exposed. The alpha track detector is typically exposed from one to twelve months.

How To Obtain A Test Kit

Contact: *The Lung Association*

Tel: 1-306-343-9511

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