



Frequently Asked Questions About Radon

Provided to You by Windy City Home Inspection, Inc.

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HOW DOES RADON GET INTO MY HOME?

Radon is a gas that comes from the ground. It can seep through cracks or pores in a home's foundation, through sump pump openings, or through loosely fitted pipes. Elevated radon levels can be found in **any home** regardless of its age, foundation type (basement/slab/crawl space), or quality of construction.

WHAT IF I LIVE IN A CONDO BUILDING?

Unless you live on the third story or above of your condo building, it is possible for radon to enter your unit.

HOW CAN RADON AFFECT MY FAMILY?

Since radon is a gas, it predominantly enters your body through inhalation. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), radon is the number one leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Furthermore, it has been linked with other conditions such as Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

HOW DO I KNOW IF RADON IS IN MY HOME?

Unfortunately, radon can not be seen, smelled, or tasted. Therefore, testing is the only way to know if there are elevated radon levels in a home. If you are testing as a part of a real estate transaction, you can contact add radon testing to your home inspection through Windy City, or contact a licensed radon testing company. If you are testing post real estate transaction, you can purchase a home radon test through the IL Department of Health, or at most hardware stores. Radon levels vary - even a home next door to a home with a low radon level can come back with a radon level above the EPA action level.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THE RADON LEVEL COMES BACK HIGH?

First and foremost, do not panic. Companies who specialize in radon mitigation will be able to use your test results to help you determine the best mitigation system for your home.

If this is in regards to a real estate transaction, this is NOT a reason to walk away from a home. You can request that as a condition of the purchase, the seller install a radon mitigation system. Once a mitigation system has been put in place, it is important to have a clearance test done to ensure that radon is being controlled properly.