Radon & Lung Cancer

2017 Drop-In Info Night
Nov. 9th, 5:00 - 7:30 pm
Alder Street Recreation Centre
275 Alder Street, Orangeville

What is Radon?

Radon gas is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in Canada. It is a naturally occurring, colourless, odourless, and tasteless radioactive gas that can enter homes and buildings from the surrounding soil.

How does Radon enter homes?

Radon gas is formed underground by the breakdown of uranium in the soil, rock, and water. Radon gas can enter a house through any opening where the house contacts the soil (*e.g.* cracks in the foundation, gaps around service pipes, floor drains and sumps, *etc.*). These openings can be present even in well-built and new houses.

Is my home at risk?

Every home is at risk. Since you can't see, smell, or taste Radon, the only way to know how much Radon is in your home is to test.

How do I test for Radon?

Testing your home for Radon is easy and inexpensive. Health Canada suggests you use an approved long-term Radon testing device for a minimum of 3 months.

You can buy an approved do-it-yourself Radon test kit or hire a certified Radon professional. Do-it-yourself test kits range between $40-80 and can be purchased in some hardware stores or online.

To find a list of approved testing devices or to find a certified Radon professional to test your home, visit: www.c-nrpp.ca

Is there a Radon guideline?

Health Canada's guideline calls for action when the average annual indoor Radon concentration exceeds 200 Bq/m^3. However, while the health risk below this guideline is lower, there is no level of Radon exposure that is risk-free and Health Canada recommends reducing Radon levels to as low as is practically possible.

What if my home has high Radon?

The higher the Radon levels, the sooner you should fix your home. The cost of fixing your home typically ranges from $50 to $3,000. Health Canada recommends hiring a certified Radon professional to fix your home. To find a professional, visit: www.c-nrpp.ca

How can Radon affect my health?

Radon exposure is linked to approximately 16% of lung cancer deaths in Canada. Your risk of developing lung cancer from Radon exposure depends on the level of Radon you are exposed to, how long you are exposed, and your smoking habits. If you smoke and your home has high Radon levels, your risk is significantly higher.

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