

Protect Your Health from Radon Exposure

What is radon and where does it come from?

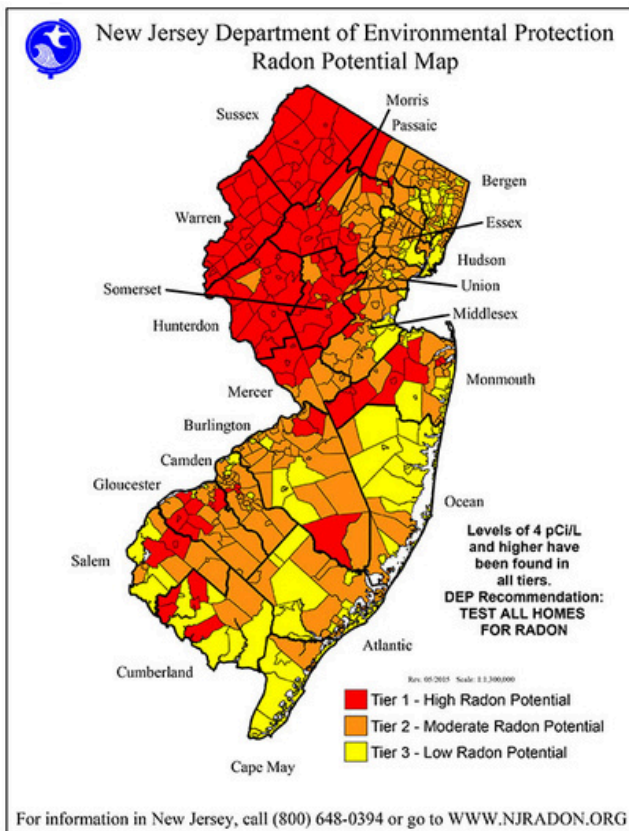
Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from rocks and soil. It has no odor, color, or taste. Radon can move from the ground into your home through cracks and holes in the foundation.

Why is radon a health problem?

Radon is estimated to cause about 21,000 deaths each year in the United States and is the second overall cause of lung cancer after smoking. In non-smokers, radon is the leading cause of lung cancer. When you breathe in radon gas, the radioactive particles can get trapped in your lungs. Over time, this can cause lung cancer. The risk of lung cancer is 10-times higher for people who smoke and are exposed to radon.

Where is radon a problem in NJ?

High radon levels have been found in homes in every county in New Jersey. Elevated levels of radon have been found in old and new homes, and in homes with and without basements. Radon levels can even vary within a neighborhood, so it's important for every home to get tested.



The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommend that you take action to mitigate (remove radon from) your home if your test results indicate radon levels of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or higher.

While data on radon screening and installation of treatment systems in NJ homes indicates increased testing and treatment, many homes have not been tested.



1 in 8 New Jersey homes has an elevated level of radon*

*From: ephracking.cdc.gov/DataExplorer. Accessed on 12/18/2023

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How do I test my 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. The best time of the year to test your home for radon is in the winter, when the house is closed-up, and radon levels might be higher.

NJDEP provides a list of [certified companies](#) that provide radon testing services. Alternatively, you can purchase do-it-yourself test kits from hardware stores, home centers, or directly from certified companies. NJDEP has [general information](#) and [mapped radon potential](#) by county and municipality. Make sure to follow NJDEP's testing [guidelines](#).

What should I do if tests show elevated radon levels in my home?

Finding out that your home has radon can be scary. If test results show elevated levels in your home, contact an NJDEP-certified, [radon mitigation business](#) to install a mitigation system to remove the radon. Make sure you retest a few months after your home is fixed to see if radon levels were reduced. NJDEP also recommends testing [every two years](#) to check that the system is working properly. For additional information, call the NJDEP Radon Hotline at (800) 648-0394.

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, test it now!

