

Is there radon in Tazewell County ?

**YES!**

Studies by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency's (IEMA) Radon program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and others show that radon occurs in every county in Illinois

The Radon Program found in its study that 63% of the homes tested in Tazewell County had indoor radon levels of 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or greater.

Studies show that high radon levels occur often in central Illinois, but no matter where you live, there is still reason for concern.

The USEPA has set 4 pCi/L as the Action Level, the level at which residents should take steps to reduce radon levels.

Screening results for Tazewell County are below.

	#	Min result	Avg result	Max result	#>4 pCi/L	%> 4 pCi/L
Basement/sub surface level	48	0.9	5.9	14.3	33	69
1st Floor living area	5	0.9	3.1	8.8	1	20
1st floor bedroom	6	1.5	4.6	11.3	3	50
Total	59	0.9	5.5	14.3	37	63

\*Radon is a naturally occurring gas that enters your home where it is in contact with the soil. Radon can be in groundwater, but that source has little effect on overall radon concentrations in your home

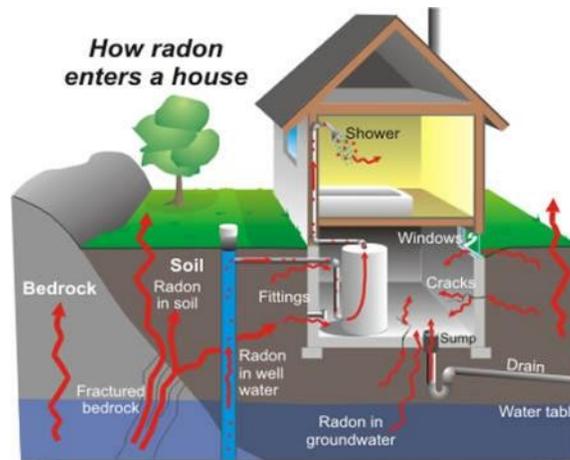
Does radon really cause lung cancer?

**YES!**

Radon is a Class A human carcinogen, which means there is actual evidence that exposure to radon causes lung cancer in humans. The National Academy of Science's Sixth Committee on the Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR VI) study reaffirmed USEPA's, radon's risk is recognized by the:

- American Medical Association
- American Lung association
- US Center for Disease Control
- American lung association
- U.S. Surgeon General
- World health organization and many others

**Radon** is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, according to EPA estimates. Overall, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year. About 2,900 of these deaths occur among people who have never smoked. On January 13, 2005, Dr. Richard H. Carmona, the U.S. Surgeon General, issued a national health advisory on radon.



Can I test for radon myself?

**YES!**

Radon testing is easy and inexpensive. Radon detectors are available at TCHD and local hardware stores. You can also call IEMA for a list of licensed laboratories that sell detectors. Radon detectors come in a variety of types.



Short Term test Kits:  
These can run for 48 hours to 90 days  
\*charcoal kit

Long-term test kits:  
These can run from 90 days to one year.  
\*Alpha Track



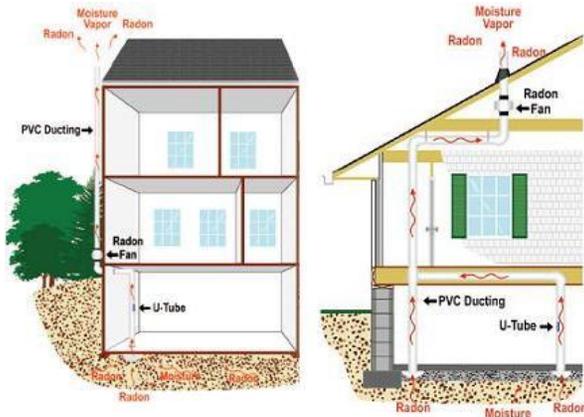
**\*Radon is a colorless, odorless radioactive gas. Testing is the only way to determine the radon level and risk in your home. Follow these easy steps for radon testing:**

**Steps for radon testing in the home**

Initial Test results and Follow-up Tests	Test Results: Do you take action?
*below 4 pCi/L: no further action is required.	You may re-test in 2 years or if any renovation or additions are made to the building
*Between 4 and 8 pCi/L: follow up with another short-term or a long term test.	If the average of the 2 tests is 4 pCi/L or greater, the IEMA– Division of Nuclear Safety recommends reducing the radon level.
*8 pCi/L or greater: follow up with another short-term test.	If the follow-up result is in agreement with the initial result, the IEMA– Division of Nuclear Safety recommends reducing the radon level.

If my house has a high radon level, is there anything I can do about it?

**YES!**



Indoor radon levels can be lowered by installing a radon mitigation system that collects radon prior to entry into the house and discharges it to a safe location.

Contact a mitigation professional licensed by IEMA to reduce radon levels in your home. Radon mitigation systems usually cost between \$800 and \$2,500 depending on the characteristics of the structure and the choice of mitigation system. Residents may install a mitigation system in their own home; however, without proper equipment or technical knowledge, you could increase the radon level or create other potential hazards.

**Look for the mitigation system -**

It's the sign of a healthier house!

Mitigation systems reduce radon levels by collecting radon and other soil gases prior to entry into the house and then discharging safely above the highest eave.

Illinois mitigation systems must include:

- Effective radon reduction
- Unobtrusive and permanent installation
- Quiet operation
- Energy efficient operation and maintenance
- A system function indicator
- A primary suction point independent of the sump pit
- Sump covers with observation ports
- Exhaust above the highest eave and as close to the roof ridge line as possible.

Do people in Illinois take radon seriously?

**YES!**

All measurement and mitigation professionals must be licensed to work in Illinois. Measurement professional cannot install a mitigation system in a home they have measured. Also, mitigation professionals cannot measure radon levels in a home they have mitigated. This is to avoid conflict of interest from measurement to mitigation.

The regulations governing radon in Illinois are:

- Radon Industry licensing Act
- Illinois Radon Awareness Act
- Illinois Real Property Disclosure Act

**For more information, contact:**

Tazewell County Health Department  
21306 IL Route 9  
Tremont, IL 61568  
(309)925-5511 ext.272  
www.tazewellhealth.org  
Email: eh@tchd.net  
Or the

Illinois Emergency Management Agency  
Radon information Line  
1(800)325-1245  
TDD: (217) 782-6133  
www.state.il.us/iema

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**Radon**

IN THE TAZEWELL COUNTY  
AREA

