

### INTERPRETATION OF RADON IN AIR RESULTS

**RADON**-Radon is a radioactive gas which occurs naturally from the decay of uranium. You can not see it, smell it or taste it. Radon can be found in high concentrations in soils and rocks. In the outdoors the concentration of radon is so diluted that usually there is nothing to worry about. The problem occurs inside a closed environment, such as a home. Indoor levels depend both on a buildings construction and most importantly the radon concentration in the underlying soil.

**How does radon get into a home?** Since radon is a gas, it moves easily through small spaces in the soil and rock on which a home is built. Radon can get into a home through dirt floors, cracks in concrete floors and walls, floor drains, sumps, joints and tiny cracks in hollow block walls. Radon can also enter water in private wells and be released when the water is used.

Radon Level	If 1,000 people who never smoked were exposed to this level over a lifetime...	The risk of cancer from radon exposure compares to ...	What to do:
20 pCi/L	About 8 people could get lung cancer	The risk of being killed in a violent crime	Fix your home
10 pCi/L	About 4 people could get lung cancer		Fix your home
8 pCi/L	About 3 people could get lung cancer	The risk of dying in an airplane crash	Fix your home
4 pCi/L	About 2 people could get lung cancer	The risk of drowning	Fix your home
2 pCi/L	About 1 person could get lung cancer	The risk of dying in a home fire	Consider fixing between 2 and 4 pCi/L
1.3 pCi/L	Less than one person could get lung cancer	Average indoor level	Reducing below 2 pCi/L is difficult.

The amount of radon is measured in picocuries per Liter, pCi/L. The EPA recommends fixing your home if the results of two short term tests taken in the lowest lived in level of the home is above 4.0 pCi/L. The EPA recommends that you have a qualified contractor fix your home because lowering the radon level requires specific technical knowledge. The EPA publication "Consumers Guide to Radon Reduction" gives a detailed description of radon reduction methods and costs. For copies of the publication you can call the EPA at 800-SOS-RADON.

### RADON RISK IF YOU HAVE NEVER SMOKED