

Information on Radon

MYTH: *Scientists aren't sure Radon really is a problem.*

FACT: Although some scientists dispute the precise number of deaths due to Radon, all major health organizations (like the Centers for Disease Control, the American Lung Association and the American Medical Association) agree with estimates that Radon causes thousands of preventable lung cancer deaths every year. This is especially true among smokers, since the risk to smokers is much greater than to nonsmokers

1. With the exception of smoking, it is widely believed in the medical community, that Radon causes more lung cancer than anything else in the United States. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that household exposure to Radon causes 5,000 to 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year. The good news is that Radon can easily be detected and reduced.
2. Radon is an odorless, colorless radioactive gas which occurs naturally in the earth. It can enter homes through cracks in foundations or walls or through ground water wells.
3. It is estimated that one in 15 homes has elevated levels of Radon.
4. There are both short-term and long-term measuring detectors available. The long-term devices that measures Radon levels over months are the most reliable. Test kits are inexpensive, usually around \$20.00.
5. There are simple ways to fix a Radon problem that aren't too costly. Even very high levels can be reduced to acceptable levels. Mitigation measures are often similar to other home repairs.

Rancho Cordova is in an area which generally does not have higher levels of Radon.

Additionally, construction methods in new homes include measures which reduce Radon levels in homes, including 4 inches of gravel and a vapor barrier under homes and proper caulking and sealing of all openings into buildings.