



Removing Radon from Your Home

Radon is an odorless, tasteless and invisible gas that is released by the decay of uranium, a naturally occurring rock in our soil. Breathing in radon can damage cells in the lungs and can lead to lung cancer. Test your home for radon using an inexpensive test kit or by hiring a professional tester. If your home has radon levels 4 pCi/L or higher, you will need to choose a radon mitigation, or reduction, method to solve the problem. Some methods keep radon from entering your home while others reduce the levels by venting it outdoors. You will need to hire a professional to decide what's right for you.

Why is a mitigator important?

A professional can mitigate radon from your home because he or she will have the technical knowledge and skills. Without the proper training, there is a risk for increasing the levels of radon within the house, and increasing the risk associated with high radon levels. Illinois Emergency Management Agency provides a list of professional radon mitigators.

What should I look for in a radon reduction system?

The professional radon mitigator will work with you when selecting a radon reduction method for your home. The method used will depend on the initial radon level, home size, foundation cost and cost of installation and systems operation.

What are my mitigation options?

There are several radon mitigation methods. They depend on your home's foundation design and require a professional. The most common and reliable method is Active Subslab Suction (see graphic below) for homes with basements or that are built slab-on-grade. It involves installing suction pipes into the ground beneath the house through the floor slab. A fan draws the radon gas from below the home to outside air, while also creating a vacuum beneath the slab.

Along with the installation, it is important to seal cracks and other openings in the foundation. It is important to retest the home after the installation to determine if the problem has been fixed. Continue to test every two years.



Radon can get into your home many ways, including through cracks in solid floors and water supply. The Active Subslab Suction technique suctions radon from below the home to outside air.