

Radon & Children's Health

What is Radon?

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas.

The natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water produces radon. You can find uranium in soil all over the world. Some places have higher radon risk than others. Exposure to high levels of radon happens when radon gas builds up in buildings and houses.



You can't see it.



You can't smell it.



You can't taste it.

Radon is found all over Oregon

1
out of
15
homes in the
U.S. has radon*

A grid of 15 house icons arranged in three rows of five. The first house icon in the top row is highlighted in orange, representing 1 out of 15 homes.

*Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

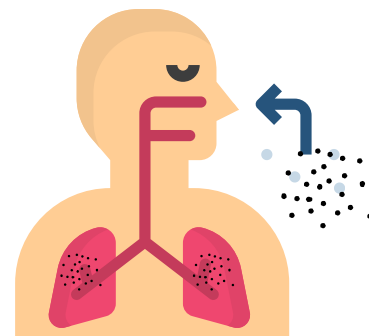
Did You Know?

Oregon school districts are required to test school buildings for radon every 10 years. (ORS 332.341 and 332.345)



How Radon Can Effect the Health of Children

- A child has different lung shape, size and breathing rates compared to adults. This makes them more vulnerable to radon exposure.
- The risk of lung cancer in children resulting from radon exposure may be almost twice as high as the risk to adults exposed to the same amount of radon.
- If children are exposed to high radon levels *and* tobacco smoke, the risk of lung cancer is at least 20 times greater.*



Can I reduce radon exposure?

- Do-it-yourself radon test kits can be purchased in most hardware stores or online.
- The only way to know if you have radon is to test your home or building.