

RADON



What you can't see **CAN** hurt you!

Myth 1: Scientists are not sure that radon really is a problem.

Fact: Although some scientists dispute the precise number of deaths due to radon, all the major health organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Lung Association and the American Medical Association, agree that radon causes thousands of preventable lung cancer deaths every year for smokers and non-smokers and that radon is a Class-A Carcinogen.

Myth 2: I would know if I had high levels of radon in my home, plus the testing process is difficult.

Fact: Many homes have not been tested for radon by current owners. The only way to detect radon is through a test, as it is odorless, colorless, and tasteless. Radon testing is easy! You can purchase a self-test kit to hang in your home at the Cerro Gordo Dept. of Public Health for \$6. Call 641-421-9300 for other testing options.

Myth 3: I will have to move out of my home if it shows high levels of radon as homes with radon problems can't be fixed.

Fact: Radon mitigation systems are installed in homes to fix high levels of radon. Thousands of homes now have these systems installed and some homes constructed after 2014 have built-in passive radon systems.

Myth 4: Radon affects only certain kinds of homes (i.e. those with basements).

Fact: Radon can be a problem in homes of all types: old homes, new homes, drafty homes, insulated homes, homes with basements, and homes without basements. Local geology, construction materials, and floor/wall cracks or other entry points, are among the factors that can affect radon levels in homes.

Myth 5: We don't spend any time in the basement.

Fact: Although levels are often highest in the lowest livable area of a home, radon gas moves throughout the home. In some cases the level of radon is only a point or two lower on the 2nd floor than it is in the basement.

Myth 6: A neighbor's test result is a good indication of whether you have a problem.

Fact: Radon levels vary greatly from home to home as there are many air pressure factors and entry points for radon. The only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test it.

Myth 7: There is only one way for radon to enter a home.

Fact: Radon has many entry ways into a home, such as cracks in the walls and floors, drain pipes, sump pumps, water, etc. In Cerro Gordo County exposure to radon through water is rare, however if your home has a private well you would like tested, call the Cerro Gordo County Dept. of Public Health at 641-421-9300. If you're interested in a list of certified radon mitigation contractors, visit our website at www.cghealth.com.

Myth 8: We've lived in our home for years being exposed to high levels; there is no point in taking action now.

Fact: You will reduce your risk of lung cancer when you reduce radon levels, even if you've lived with an elevated radon level for a long time (Similar to how quitting smoking or using tobacco would decrease your risk level for acquiring smoking related illnesses).

Myth 9: It's difficult to sell homes where radon problems have been discovered; therefore I shouldn't test the home if I'm thinking about selling.

Fact: Not necessarily. Although some are hesitant to test the home for radon, it is commonly requested by buyers, regardless. If the home is high in radon and a mitigation system is installed to fix the home, the added protection serves as a selling point.



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