

RADON

This air pollutant is naturally found in the natural environment through rocks, soils, and groundwater and known to be a leading cause to lung cancer.

(United States Environmental Protection Agency)



HOW HARMFUL IS IT?

While this pollutant isn't particularly harmful to the environment itself. Typically, the concentration of this pollutant is in smaller concentrations due to it diluting very quickly, causing no concerns to the environment; However, it is a threat to humans. It is estimated that 3-14% of lung cancer cases are due to this pollutant (World Health Organization).

HOW DO YOU COME IN CONTACT WITH RADON?

Radon naturally comes from the ground and is a result of the breakdown uranium. It can go through cracks in the foundation of your home and increase in concentration over time,

SOLUTION

While there is no need to reduce this air pollutant outdoors due to it only being a major problem indoors, there are ways to reduce it in your home to decrease your chances of getting lung cancer, such as increasing airflow in your house (Center for Disease Control and Prevention).

Another solution is to implement a radon mitigation system in your home. Radon mitigation systems range from \$1,200-\$2,000 in the U.S. depending on the city and state. On average, it costs about \$1,012 to install (Angi).

WHAT STATES IS RADON MOST PREVALENT?

ALASKA AND SOUTH DAKOTA

The states of Alaska and South Dakota have the highest levels of this air pollutant.

- **Alaska:** 10.7 pCi/L
- **South Dakota:** 9.6 pCi/L

Following that are the states of **Pennsylvania, Ohio,** and **Washington.**

- 7.5 pCi/L to 8.6 pCi/L

(Wisevoter)

EFFORTS TO DECREASE RADON

National Radon Action Plan 2021-2025: "Goal for the nation to find, fix and prevent high indoor radon levels in 8 million buildings by 2025 and prevent 3,500 lung cancer deaths per year." (EPA)

WHAT YOU CAN DO IN THE FACE OF THIS POLLUTANT

Kits are inexpensive and can be bought online or in home improvement stores.

The Environmental Protection Agency states that if your home has Radon levels at 4 pCi/L or greater, then it's time to consider mitigation stems to lower the levels.

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms do not usually present themselves immediately. Some symptoms include a shortness of breath, cough, and difficulty swallowing (American Cancer Society). Smoking also worsens these symptoms.