

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Radon Talking Points

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- Radon is a radioactive, colorless, odorless, and naturally occurring gas
- Presents one of the largest environmental health risks today
  - The leading cause of non-smoking lung cancer
  - Linked to 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year
  - For a comparison, that's more than annual drunk driving deaths
- High-levels of radon are found all over the US
- Testing your home is easy and inexpensive
- If you detect radon in your home, low-cost remediation options are available

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- The Surgeon General recommends all houses be tested for radon
- Radon presents risks whether you're a non-smoker, former smoker or a current smoker
- Prevention is the only way to reduce your family's risk
- On average, people spend 90% of their time indoors
- In the winter we keep the windows and doors closed more often, which can allow the gas to accumulate

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- Radon comes up from underground sources as a soil gas and gets into homes via foundation cracks, drains, concrete blocks, etc.
- A house acts much like a vacuum cleaner that sucks in this gas from underground
- Since radon is odorless and invisible, it seeps into homes undetected until you test for it
- Protect your family and test your home now!!