



Contact Us

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www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/radon-gas

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Radon in Schools and Child Care Facilities

What is Radon?

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot smell, see, or taste. Radon comes from the natural breakdown of uranium that can be found in soils and rocks. Because radon is a gas, it moves through the ground and seeps into buildings through cracks and other openings in any foundation type.



Why do we care about Radon?

Breathing air containing radon can cause lung cancer. Radon exposure is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.

Radon is estimated to cause over 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year nationwide – more than drunk driving, drownings, or home fires. The risk of dying from lung cancer increases with higher levels of radon gas and with how long a person has been exposed. The time between exposure and cancer diagnosis may be many years. Due to smaller lungs and faster breathing rates, children are potentially exposed to higher doses of radiation than adults.

Test and Fix

Testing should be conducted using approved devices during the coldest months of the year and while the school or child care facility is in session. Schools should be tested by a nationally certified radon measurement professional, using approved national standards. Child care facilities should contact the

Arkansas Department of Health, Radiation Control Section, for appropriate testing instructions; testing can often be done very inexpensively. Schools and child care facilities with radon levels at 4 picocuries of radon per liter of air or higher should be mitigated in order to fix the problem. Radon levels less than 4 pCi/L still pose some risk and in many cases may be reduced.

Every School
Should take
this
Simple Test.

