

News Release

National Radon Action Week Promotes Awareness of a Silent Killer

National Radon Action Week 2007, October 21-27, is the National Safety Council's reminder to test your home every two years for radon, a naturally occurring gas that's colorless, odorless and tasteless – and responsible for an estimated 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year and is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers.

Radon occurs as rocks and soil decay to release the radioactive element in gas form. As the gas rises beneath buildings, it forces its way up through floors, walls, and openings around floor drains and pipes. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that 1 in 15 American homes has an elevated radon level - 4 pCi/L or more.

Inexpensive and easy to use "do-it-yourself" kits are available to test for radon and can be lifesavers. There are also professionals who test for radon.

Remedies for the presence of radon include systems such as "sub-slab depressurization," which uses underground pipes and an exhaust fan to redirect the gas. Sealing cracks and other openings in the floors and walls to limit radon is an option, but has not been shown to lower radon levels significantly or consistently. It is difficult to identify and permanently seal its points of entry.

The National Safety Council's Radon Hotline, (800) 767-7236, is a toll-free number for radon brochures and information on ordering cost-effective, short-term test kits. You can also contact an NSC information specialist by calling (800) 557-2366, weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST.

Related Items

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