



# WHAT'S THE RISK WITH RADON?

*Radon - an odorless, tasteless, invisible gas.*

There is no scientific doubt that exposure to high Radon gas levels can cause lung cancer.

EPA estimates that approximately 20,000 people die each year as a result of radon exposure and recommends that ALL homes built in high radon areas incorporate radon prevention measures at the time of construction.

The state of Indiana is classified as a Zone I Radon Area. This means that the average home in the state exceeds the EPA action level of 4.0 pCi/l. A pico curie (“peeko curee”) is a unit of measurement for radiation. Living in a home at 4.0 pCi/l is the equivalent of each family member smoking half a pack of cigarettes every day. For this reason, the World Health Organization lowered its recommended action level from 4.0 to 2.7 pCi/l in 2009.

Radon Level	Out of 1,000 Smokers	Out of 1,000 Never Smokers	What To Do
20 pCi/L	about 260 people could get lung cancer	about 36 people could get lung cancer	EPA recommends mitigation
10 pCi/L	about 150 people could get lung cancer	about 18 people could get lung cancer	EPA recommends mitigation
8 pCi/L	120 people could get lung cancer	about 15 people could get lung cancer	EPA recommends mitigation
4 pCi/L	62 people could get lung cancer	about 7.3 people could get lung cancer	Mitigation
2 pCi/L	32 people could get lung cancer	about 3.7 people could get lung cancer	Consider Mitigation between 2 and 4 pCi/L
1.25 pCi/L	about 20 people could get lung cancer	about 2.3 people could get lung cancer	Reducing levels below 2 pCi/L is difficult
0.4 pCi/L	about 0.64 people could get lung cancer	about 0.07 people could get lung cancer	

Assumes constant lifetime exposure in homes at these levels. Source: EPA publication 6604J “Air and Radiation risk chart”

