

The Truth About Radon Exposure

1. **Radon exposure is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers;** radon causes lung cancer in smokers as well.
2. **There has been more epidemiologic investigation exploring the association between radon (and its decay products) and lung cancer than any other environmental carcinogen.** Experimental exposure in animals, occupational studies of radon-exposed miners, and direct observation from individuals exposed to radon in their homes provides a firm scientific foundation that documents radon is a major environmental carcinogen.
3. According to the Science Advisory Board, *“radon inhalation is the largest source of collective radiation exposure (and presumably, radiation risk) to the U.S. population as a whole.”*
4. Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Science Advisory Board increased their radon risk assessment by more than 50% and now estimate **21,000 Americans die of radon-induced lung cancer annually**
5. The World Health Organization (WHO) says **radon causes up to 15% of all lung cancers worldwide.**
6. **Although lung cancer can be treated, the survival rate is one of the lowest for those with cancer.** From the time of diagnosis, only 11-15% of those afflicted will live beyond five years, depending upon demographic factors.
7. Residential pooling studies from both North America and Europe provide direct evidence linking *residential* radon exposure to lung cancer; *“These findings effectively end any doubts about the risks to Americans of having radon in their homes,”* said Tom Kelly, Director of EPA’s Indoor Environments Division. *“The research confirms that breathing low levels of radon can lead to lung cancer.”*
8. Because radon is a Class A carcinogen, **the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Surgeon General recommend ALL HOMEOWNERS and ALL HOMEBUYERS test for indoor radon**
9. **In 2005, the U.S. Surgeon General issued a Health Advisory** warning Americans about the health risk from exposure to radon in indoor air.
10. **Radon-induced lung cancer can easily be prevented** by testing your home and reducing concentrations that are at or above EPA’s 4 pCi/l Action Level
11. **Homes with elevated radon concentration can easily be fixed** with the installation of an Active Soil Depressurization System by a certified or state licensed radon mitigation contractor.
12. **ASD systems also decrease moisture and other soil gases entering the home,** reducing molds, mildews, methane, pesticide gases, volatile organic compounds and other indoor air quality problems.