

Radon Brochure-B

Are There Any Guidelines for Radon Levels?

Several government agencies and scientific groups have recommended that actions be taken at various levels to reduce exposure to radon.

Agency or Organization	Radon Level (picocuries/liter)	Action Guidelines
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	20	Remedial action, preferably within several months
	4	Remedial action within next few years
National Council on Radiation Protection	8	Remedial Action
Canadian Government	30	Prompt Action
	4	Remedial Action

What Is Lifetime Risk?

Because radon risk is cumulative, it usually is given as a lifetime risk. This risk is based on two factors:

- ▶ How long you are exposed to your radon level: Lifetime risk calculations assume an average "lifetime" of 74 years in a house with a particular radon level.
- ▶ Hours at home each day: Lifetime risk calculations usually assume you spend about three-quarters of your time, or 18 hours, at home each day.

Smokers and former smokers exposed to radon are at especially high risk for lung cancer.

Should I have additional radon tests?

You will get a reading for your basement, where radon levels are likely to be highest. It is a good idea to check the accuracy of a single test by having more tests done.