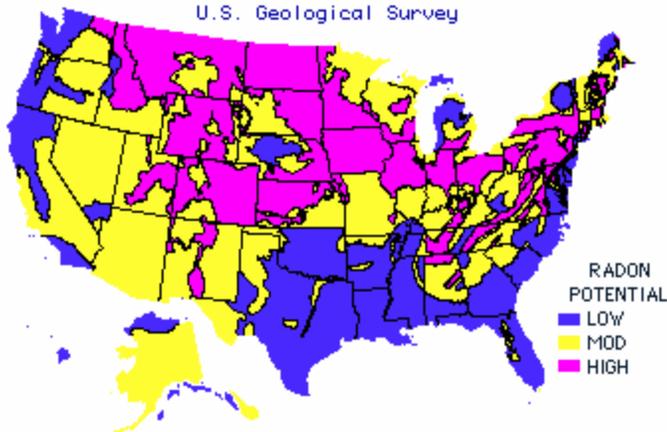


# WHAT IS RADON?

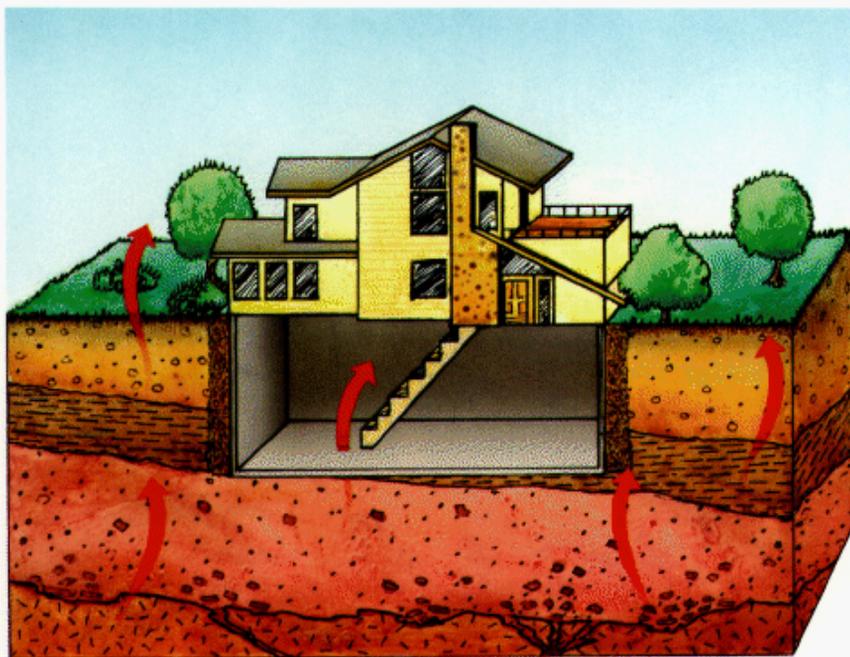
Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that you can not see, taste, or smell. It is found in soil, rock, and water.

*Radon is found in all of the 50 United States. About 1 out of 15 homes in the US have high radon levels.*

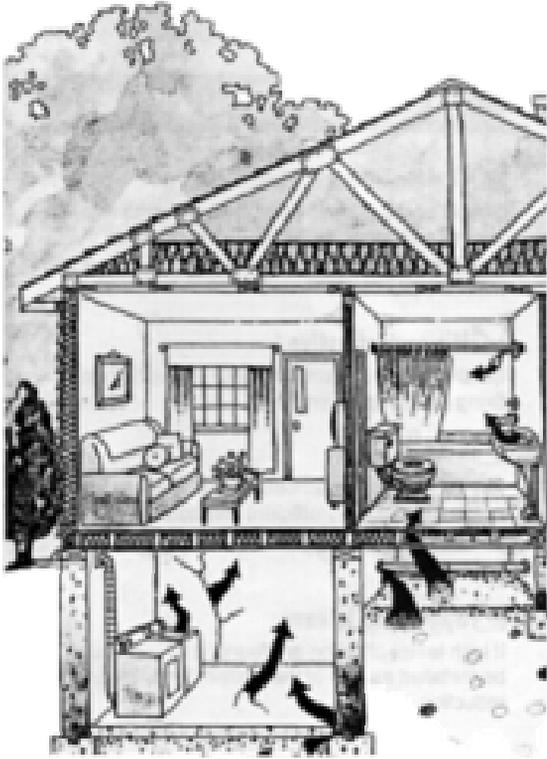
GEOLOGIC RADON POTENTIAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
U.S. Geological Survey



Radon that is present in surrounding soil or in well water can be a source of radon in a home.



# RADON EXPOSURE

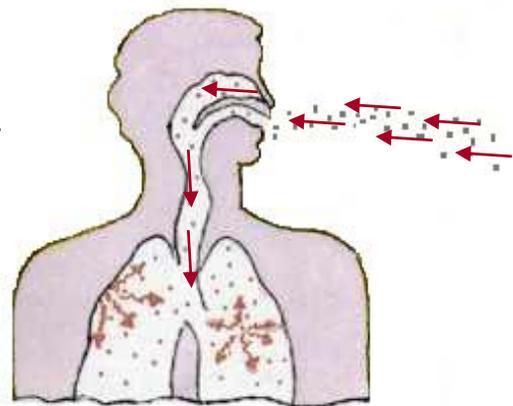


## How does Radon Enter Homes ?

- ◆ Radon most commonly enters homes through cracks, pores, and openings.
- ◆ A small amount enters through well water.
- ◆ Highest radon levels are usually found in the lowest areas of a home such as basements and crawl spaces.

## Health Effects

- ◆ Radon causes lung damage which can lead to lung cancer over the course of your lifetime.
- ◆ Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer.
- ◆ The chances of developing lung cancer are much greater for those who smoke and are exposed to radon.
- ◆ There are no known short-term health effects from exposure to radon.



# PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY FROM RADON

## Testing for Radon

All homes should be tested for radon. Testing is simple and inexpensive. People living in base housing, should contact the housing department for testing. There are short-term and long-term radon tests. The test kits must meet the Environmental Protection Agency requirements.

Radon levels are given in picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L). A picocurie is a measure of radiation. The average US indoor air level is 1.3 pCi/L. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that indoor radon levels should be below 4 pCi/L.

## Lowering Radon Levels

There are several methods that can be used to lower radon levels in your home.

- Ventilation (mechanical)
- Reversing the flow of radon
- House pressurizing
- Opening windows, doors, and vents (short-term)
- Sealing cracks and other holes in the foundation

