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Lung Association Radon Initiatives and Resources

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Radon and Lung Cancer

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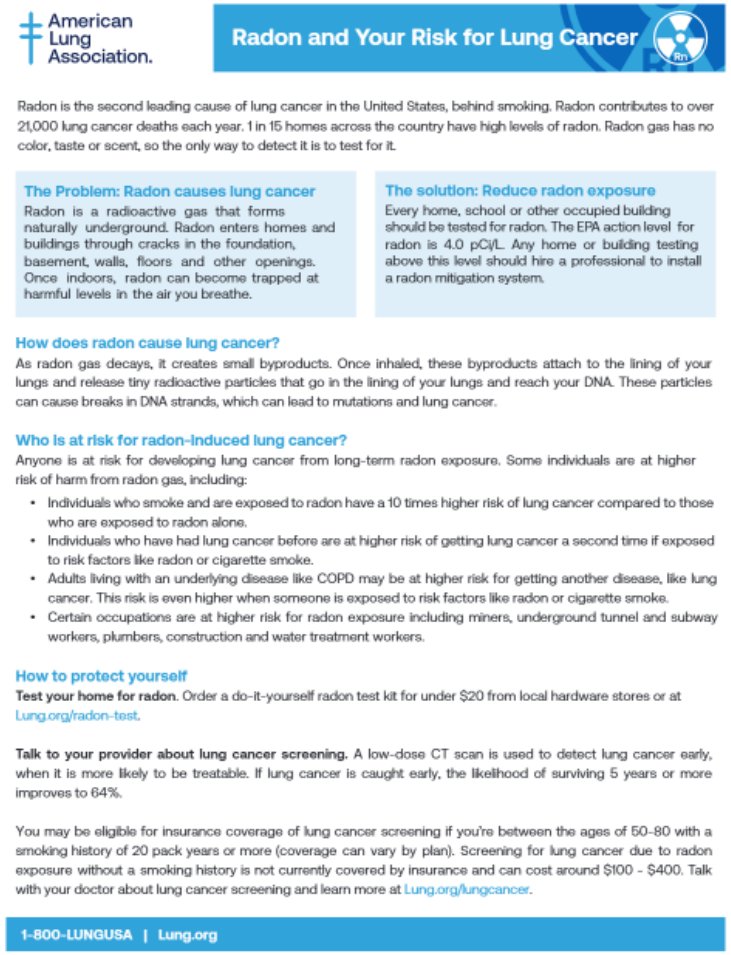

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Radon and Your Risk for Lung Cancer

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, behind smoking. Radon contributes to over 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year. 1 in 15 homes across the country have high levels of radon. Radon gas has no color, taste or scent, so the only way to detect it is to test for it.

The Problem: Radon causes lung cancer
Radon is a radioactive gas that forms naturally underground. Radon enters homes and buildings through cracks in the foundation, basement, walls, floors and other openings. Once indoors, radon can become trapped at harmful levels in the air you breathe.

The solution: Reduce radon exposure
Every home, school or other occupied building should be tested for radon. The EPA action level for radon is 4.0 pCi/L. Any home or building testing above this level should hire a professional to install a radon mitigation system.

How does radon cause lung cancer?
As radon gas decays, it creates small byproducts. Once inhaled, these byproducts attach to the lining of your lungs and release tiny radioactive particles that go in the lining of your lungs and reach your DNA. These particles can cause breaks in DNA strands, which can lead to mutations and lung cancer.

Who is at risk for radon-induced lung cancer?
Anyone is at risk for developing lung cancer from long-term radon exposure. Some individuals are at higher risk of harm from radon gas, including:

- Individuals who smoke and are exposed to radon have a 10 times higher risk of lung cancer compared to those who are exposed to radon alone.
- Individuals who have had lung cancer before are at higher risk of getting lung cancer a second time if exposed to risk factors like radon or cigarette smoke.
- Adults living with an underlying disease like COPD may be at higher risk for getting another disease, like lung cancer. This risk is even higher when someone is exposed to risk factors like radon or cigarette smoke.
- Certain occupations are at higher risk for radon exposure including miners, underground tunnel and subway workers, plumbers, construction and water treatment workers.

How to protect yourself
Test your home for radon. Order a do-it-yourself radon test kit for under $20 from local hardware stores or at Lung.org/radon-test.

Talk to your provider about lung cancer screening. A low-dose CT scan is used to detect lung cancer early, when it is more likely to be treatable. If lung cancer is caught early, the likelihood of surviving 5 years or more improves to 64%.

You may be eligible for insurance coverage of lung cancer screening if you're between the ages of 50-80 with a smoking history of 20 pack years or more (coverage can vary by plan). Screening for lung cancer due to radon exposure without a smoking history is not currently covered by insurance and can cost around $100 - $400. Talk with your doctor about lung cancer screening and learn more at Lung.org/lungcancer.

1-800-LUNGUSA | Lung.org

How does radon cause lung cancer?

Radon decay products penetrate through the lining of the lungs and can cause breaks in DNA strands, which can lead to mutation and cancer development.

Who is at risk for radon-related lung cancer?

- Individuals who smoke and are exposed to radon
- Individuals who have had lung cancer before
- Adults living with an underlying lung disease
- Certain occupations: radon professionals!

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Addressing Lung Cancer

Prevention	Detection	Treatment
• Avoiding tobacco smoke • **Radon testing & mitigation** • Reduce exposure to carcinogens like asbestos • Education	• Low-dose CT scans: especially for those who have lived in a **home with chronically high radon levels**	• Cancer reduction treatments • Smoking cessation • **Radon testing & mitigation** • Palliative care

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Take Action!

When talking about radon, you should also be talking about lung cancer!

Learn more about lung cancer and share lung cancer resources with clients

Encourage clients to learn about lung cancer screening:

- Visit **Lung.org/savedbythescan**
- Call the Lung HelpLine at **(844) 252-5864**

Talk to your healthcare provider about lung cancer screening

Advocate for regulations that increase access to lung cancer screening

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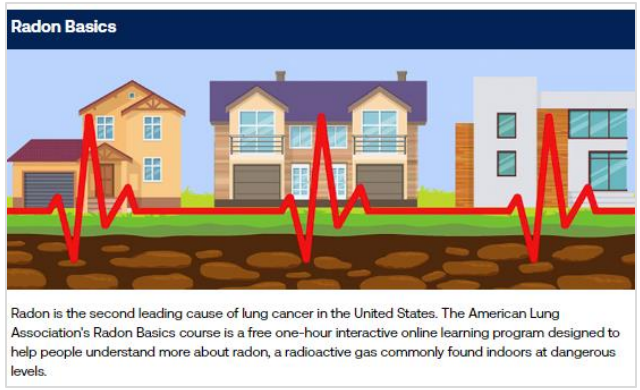
Lung Association Radon Resources and Initiatives

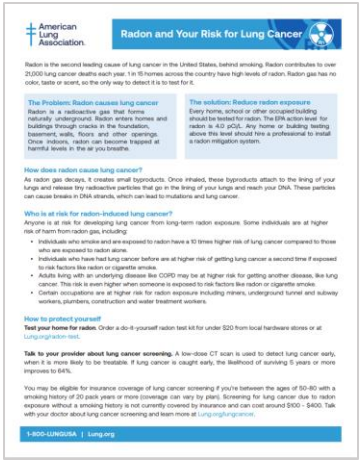
Resources for the Public

Lung.org/radon



Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. The American Lung Association's Radon Basics course is a free one-hour interactive online learning program designed to help people understand more about radon, a radioactive gas commonly found indoors at dangerous levels.

Radon and Lung Health



- **Radon Basics:** FREE, online learning module to learn more about radon
- **Radon and Lung Health:** educational video about radon risks, testing and mitigation
- **What is Radon:** educational factsheet about finding and fixing radon problems
- **Radon and Your Risk for Lung Cancer:** handout educating those at high-risk for lung cancer

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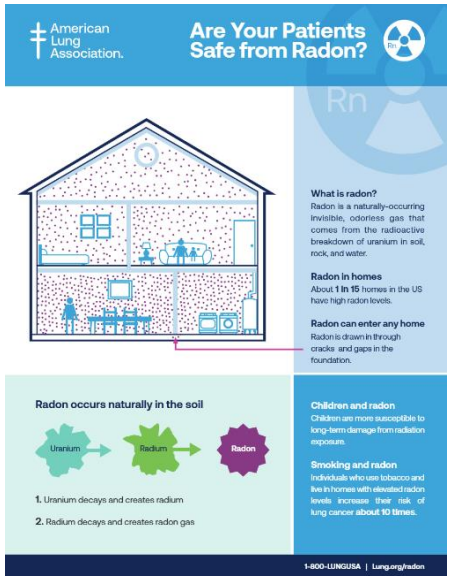
Resources for Professionals

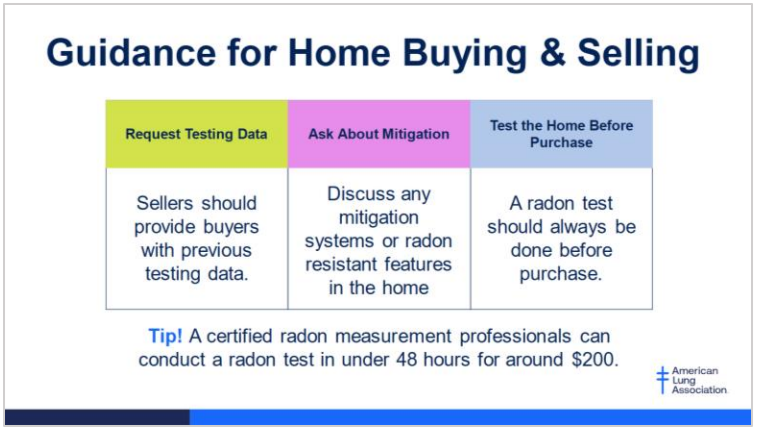
Advocates & Decision-Makers
- Lung.org/radon-advocates

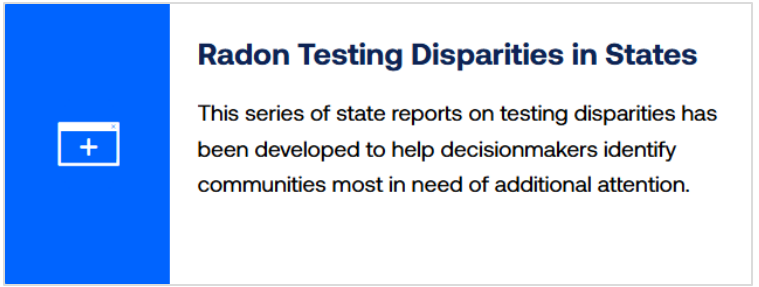
Healthcare Professionals
- Lung.org/IAQResources

Real Estate Professionals
- Lung.org/radon-real-estate

Schools
- Lung.org/radon-schools







Clean Air School Challenge

Lung.org/CASC

The **Clean Air School Challenge** meets schools where they are in their IAQ and energy management journeys.

Schools receive support and guidance as they work their way through the 3 program phases: assess, plan, and act.

Scan the QR code to learn more!
Questions? Contact **CASC@lung.org**

Mini-grant funding available (up to $9500 per school)!

Non-competitive, no match requirements

Mini-grants can be used for:

- Radon mitigation
- Secondary radon testing
- HVAC maintenance
- Lead or mold assessment & removal
- Other IAQ support!

Radon Test Kit Store

Nationwide

The Lung Association operates a nationwide radon test kit store at **Lung.org/radon-test**.

- Short-term charcoal test kits: **$18**
- Long-term Alpha Track Detectors: **$30**

Through **State Indoor Radon Grants (SIRG)** the Lung Association offers FREE or discounted radon test kits to residents and/or local health departments in select states.

Key Distribution Statistics:

Time Period	# of Kits Sold
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 (FY24)	**7,038**
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 (FY25)	**12,999**

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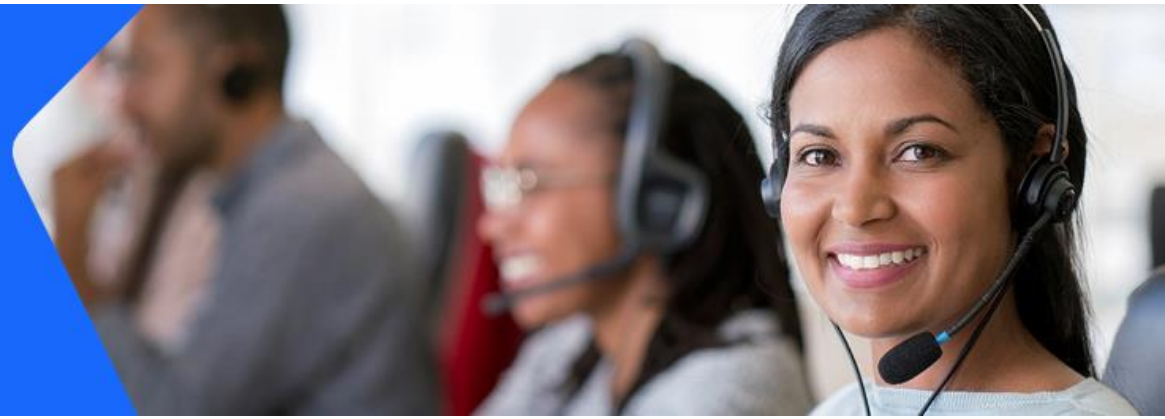
Lung Helpline and Tobacco Quitline

Free information and support from lung health experts.



Lung HelpLine

- Staffed with bilingual, licensed healthcare professionals
- Direct to local services like lung cancer screening and tobacco cessation
- Assist with healthcare coverage
- Answer lung health and lung disease questions

Radon Specifics

- Ordering radon tests
- Interpreting test results & recommending action
- Directing to local resources and certified radon professionals
- Finding financial assistance for mitigation

Radon HelpLine Call Statistics:

Time Period	# Radon HelpLine Calls
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	**952**
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025	**1,141**

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Our Vision

A World Free of Lung Disease

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