

# RADON FACTS FOR RENTERS

What is radon? Radon is an odorless and colorless radioactive gas caused by the decay of uranium in soil. Exposure to radon can damage lung tissue and increase your risk of lung cancer, especially for people who smoke. Because radon comes from the soil, you are more likely to be exposed to radon if you live in a basement or lower level of a home or building. The EPA recommends that anyone living below the third floor of a home or building test for radon.

## I'm a tenant. How can I find out about radon in my building or house?

- Before you sign your lease, the landlord or building owner is required to tell you in writing if they are aware of high levels of radon on the property.
- Ask your landlord if they have tested for radon and/or taken measures to reduce radon levels in your building. If so, ask for the test results and proof of mitigation by a licensed contractor.
- If the building has not been tested, you can ask your landlord to contact a licensed radon contractor to conduct a test. You can also test for radon with a do-it-yourself kit available at most hardware stores.



## I'm a tenant. What do I do if the test shows high levels of radon?

- If the test shows high levels of radon, share the results in writing with your landlord. Ask what steps they will take to reduce radon levels and for proof of any repairs by a licensed contractor.
- If you live in an apartment building, you may want to share the results of your test with other tenants, so they can also test their units and encourage the landlord to take action.
- If the landlord does not take action, you may want to contact your state radon office or a legal assistance organization.

## I am a property owner. What can I do about high levels of radon?

- High radon levels can be fixed through building repairs and the installation of a radon reduction system. The size, shape, and nature of the building will influence the type and price of repairs.
- Building owners should always use a licensed radon contractor. Contact your state radon office for a list of licensed professionals.
- Maintain documentation of any repairs or mitigation to share with current and future tenants.

For more information and guidance, contact Respiratory Health Association at [info@resphealth.org](mailto:info@resphealth.org) or visit [resphealth.org/radon](http://resphealth.org/radon)