Know Your Number

Understand your risk from elevated radon exposure

Radon Level 4.0 pCi/L	**Equals 200 chest x-rays per year OR 8 cigarettes per day. EPA Recommends: Fix your home.** 
Radon Level 8.0 pCi/L	**Equals 400 chest x-rays per year OR 16 cigarettes per day. EPA Recommends: Fix your home.**
Radon Level 10.0 pCi/L	 **Equals 500 chest x-rays per year OR 20 cigarettes per day. One full pack. EPA Recommends: Fix your home.**
Radon Level 15.0 pCi/L	**Equals 750 chest x-rays per year OR 30 cigarettes per day. EPA Recommends: Fix your home.**
Radon Level 20.0 pCi/L	**Equals 1,000 chest x-rays per year OR 40 cigarettes per day. EPA Recommends: Fix your home.** 
Radon Level 40.0 pCi/L	**Equals 2,000 chest x-rays per year OR 80 cigarettes per day. EPA Recommends: Fix your home.**
Radon Level 100.0 pCi/L	**Equals 5,000 chest x-rays per year OR 200 cigarettes per day. EPA Recommends: Fix your home.**

- Average US indoor air radon level = **1.3 pCi/L** (pico curies per liter of air).
- If you smoke and your radon levels are elevated, your risk for lung cancer is especially high.
- Smaller lungs and faster breathing rates may result in greater radon exposure in children relative to adults.

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Kentucky UNBRIDLED SPIRIT
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What's in a number? When it comes to understanding your risk from radon exposure, your number means a lot.

Radon is measured in pico curies per liter of air (pCi/L). **4.0 pCi/L** is the level established by the US EPA for action — any building testing above this level should be fixed.

Nationwide, 7% of all buildings contain elevated radon levels. In Kentucky, **42% of all buildings** contain eleveted levels — six times greater than the national average. In some areas of the state, **more than 65%** of buildings contain elevated radon levels.

The only way to know if a home or other building contains elevated radon levels is to have it tested. Where a problem exists, steps should be taken to correct the issue through proven mitigation techniques.

Facts About Radon

Radon is a **naturally-occurring** radioactive gas. Radon enters a home through cracks or openings in the foundation, slab, or sump pit. When this occurs, radon can **accumulate in dangerous levels.**

Radon is a Class A Human Carcinogen — the US EPA and Surgeon General estimate radon is responsible for more than 25,000 annual deaths, making it the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

Information cited from the following sources:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, ABDR. (1990). Toxicological profile for radon. Atlanta, GA: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

US Environmental Protection Agency. Indoor Environments Division. A Citizens Guide to Radon. EPA 402-K-09-001, January 2009.

The Kentucky Association of Radon Professionals is dedicated to preventing radon-induced lung cancer and saving lives through increasing consumer awareness, raising industry professionalism, and supporting effective radon policy.