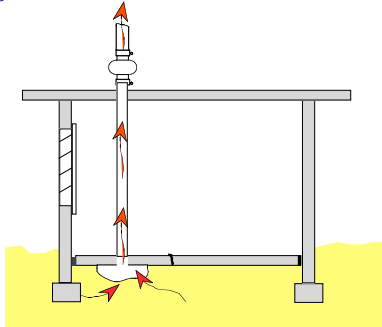


Won't sealing the floor cracks take care of the problem? NO!

Sealing floor cracks to keep radon out is as difficult as sealing floors and walls to keep water from seeping in. To control radon in an existing home, a collection system is installed to draw radon from the soil and exhaust it to a safe location outside of the home. These radon reduction systems are called Active Soil Depressurization Systems.

How expensive are these systems to install and operate?

A reduction system consists of plastic pipe connected to the soil either through a hole in a slab, or foundation wall. Attached to the pipe is a quiet, continuously operating fan that discharges the radon outdoors.



- Average Guam installation cost: \$2,000-\$2,500.
- Average operating cost in Guam: \$6.00/month.
- Expected life span of fan: 11 years
- Fan replacement cost: \$145-\$300
- Periodic maintenance: none

How prevalent is radon on Guam?

Surveys conducted by the Guam EPA indicate that approximately 27% of the homes in Guam are in excess of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's action level of 4.0 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L). The chance of finding a radon concern in your home is relatively high. However, the only way to tell if a home has elevated levels of radon is to have the house tested. This is easy to do. Look for individuals listed by Guam Environmental Protection Agency.

Radon System Facts

- Homes with radon can be reliably reduced to less than 4 pCi/L.
- A qualified contractor can install most systems in one day.
- Repairs take 24 hours to take effect before retesting can occur.
- A radon problem can be found in any home, regardless of its age.
- Although an increasing number of builders are installing them, do not assume that a new home has a radon system. **ASK!**
- **Guam EPA provides free radon test kits to homeowners!**
- The Guam EPA maintains lists of qualified testers and contractors.

For technical questions regarding radon measurement and mitigation call
Guam EPA
Air Pollution Control Program
475-1611/12
or visit us on the Web at
www.guamepa.govguam.net

Understanding Radon

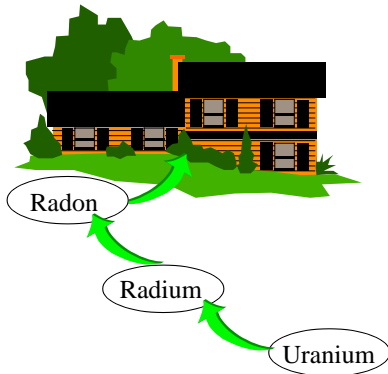


The Guam Environmental Protection Agency is committed to fostering healthy indoor environments for Guam. Since this is also a national goal for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the two entities have entered into a partnership to accomplish their common goal by transferring and sharing radon technologies.

Most people find it difficult to understand radon: a colorless, odorless, inert radioactive gas. You cannot see it, smell it, or feel it; yet we cannot completely avoid breathing radon. Understanding the risks associated with radon exposure will assist you in providing a healthy home for those who live there for years to come.

Radon – What is it?

Radon comes from the natural radioactive decay of uranium and radium found in the soil beneath the house. These elements can be found everywhere in the world. Therefore, any building has the potential for elevated levels of radon. People cannot see, taste or smell radon. There is no way that one can sense the presence of radon.

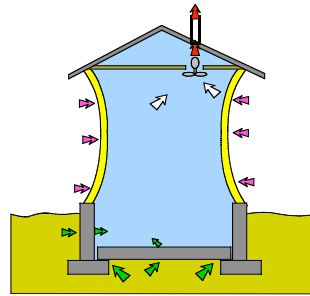


Radon – A Gas That Causes Lung Cancer

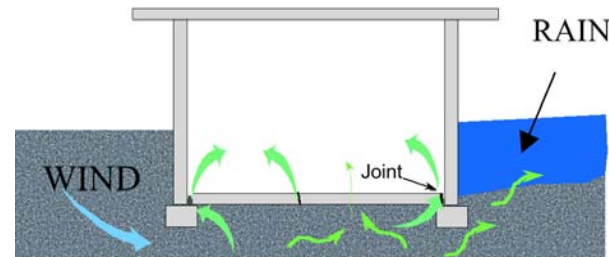
Radon is a radioactive gas. Prolonged exposure to this gas can have a detrimental effect on people by increasing the potential for lung cancer. It is believed that radon causes approximately 14,000 to 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year in the U.S.

How Does Radon Get Into the House?

Buildings are typically at a lower pressure than the surrounding air and soil. This causes radon and other soil gases to be drawn into the building.



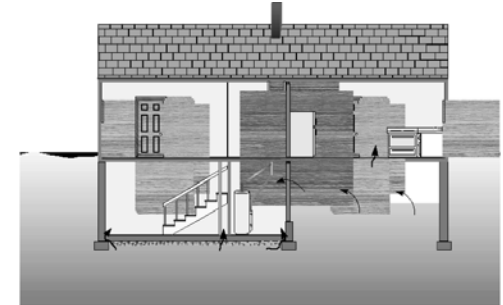
One reason is the effect that exhaust fans have when removing air from a building. When air is exhausted, outside air enters the building to replace it. Most of this replacement air comes from the underlying soil.



A second reason is that wind and rain can cause pressures in the soil that force soil gases to enter the building. Some of the outside air, which is displacing and replacing the interior air, moves through the soil and carries radon in with it.

Does the Type of Foundation Affect Radon Entry?

Because radon is literally sucked into a home, any house that is in contact with soils can potentially have a radon problem.



Basements: Radon can enter through cracks in the slab, especially at floor-to-wall joints and control joints.

Slab-on-grade houses: Vacuums occur in homes regardless of whether or not there is a basement. Slabs built on-grade can have just as many openings that allow radon to enter.

Crawl space homes: The vacuum that exists within a home is exerted on the crawl space beneath it, causing radon and other gases to enter the home from the earthen area below. Even with crawl space vents, a slight vacuum is still exerted on the crawl space. This vacuum is sufficient to draw radon from the exposed earth.

Mobil and pre-fabricated homes: Unless set up on piers without any skirting placed around them, interior vacuums can cause radon to enter these types of homes as well.