Treatment Systems: Reduce Air Radon Levels in Your Home

Radon Tipsheet #6

High levels of radon in air are a serious danger to family health.

Radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer. Studies in thousands of homes around the world show radon causes lung cancer at levels like those found in Maine. High levels of radon gas occur naturally in Maine soil and water, and can move up into a house from the ground. The house then traps the radon in the air inside. If you have tested and your **air test number** is:

- **4 or higher**
  You need a treatment system.
- **Between 2 and 4** – maybe treat
  Call us to discuss: 1-800-232-0842.
- **Below 2** and you tested in cold weather with the heat on—retest in 3 to 5 years. If you tested in warmer weather when heat is off, test again in cold weather when heat is on.

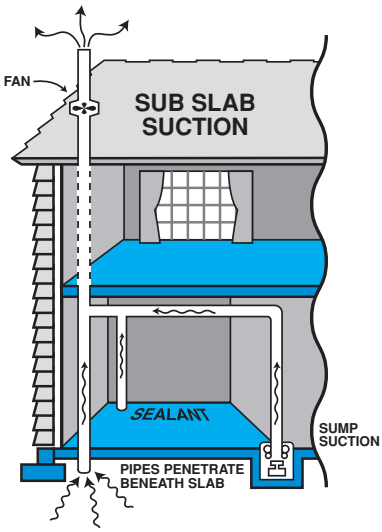
Here's the good news: Radon air treatment systems work well to bring the level down to safer levels, no matter how high the levels are to start.

If you have well water, be sure you test the water and know both well water and air results before you plan any treatment system.

For homes with concrete basements or slabs, ASD systems work well - Active Subslab Depressurization

ASD - Active Subslab Depressurization is a simple, effective system for houses with basements or slabs. It's also the least costly. The picture below shows an example. One or more pipes are sunk through the basement floor. These pipes are connected to a fan near the top of the house that draws the radon out like a vacuum cleaner. The radon is released into the air above the house where it will be diluted to low levels. Cracks and other openings in the foundation should be sealed at the same time a treatment system is installed.

There are other methods to reduce radon that a contractor might advise, depending on your situation. If you need more information or help deciding what to do go to this website: www.MaineRadiationControl.org or call : 1-800-232-0842.



For homes built over dirt-floored crawlspace or basement, submembrane depressurization or HRV systems work well

Submembrane Depressurization is a simple, effective system for houses with dirt floored crawlspaces or basements. Heavy plastic sheeting is placed on the dirt. One or more pipes are sunk through the plastic. These pipes are connected to a fan near the top of the house that draws the radon out like a vacuum cleaner. The radon is released into the air above the house where it will be diluted to low levels .

HRV – Heat Recovery Ventilator can also be used for houses with dirt floored crawlspaces or basements. These systems take air from outside, warm the air and use it to dilute the radon.

Use a contactor registered in Maine to install your treatment system.

Access the online registered contractor database at maineradiationcontrol.org, click the link to Radon Service Providers

Contractors in Maine must be trained and registered to fix radon problems. These systems typically cost between $1,500 and $3,000 including installation.

Get Radon Tipsheet #8 *Working with a Registered Radon Reduction Expert* at the website below.

Protect your family. Learn. Test. Treat if needed.

- Check this website: **www.MaineRadiationControl.org**
- For advice: **1-800-232-0842 • radon.dhhs@maine.gov • TTY: 800-606-0215**

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
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