Radon Information

Radon is a colorless, tasteless and odorless radioactive gas that can cause lung cancer. The only way to know if you have radon is to test.

If your drinking water comes from a well or other underground source, then it could contain radon. If you have a private well, we recommend testing your air first and if that result is high, then test your drinking water. For more information on radon in water visit the EPA website at https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations

You may also contact Derek Cooper, UGA Extension Radon Educator, Athens at dmc20@uga.edu or 706.583.0602.

Radon gas enters the home through the foundation and well water. Pressure differences within the home (from warm air rising and other natural effects) pull radon into living spaces from the soil. Furnace & air conditioning systems can distribute the air through the structure. While sealing may be a necessary part of the radon mitigation process, the EPA does not recommend the use of sealing alone to reduce radon because by itself; sealing has not been shown to lower radon levels significantly or consistently. Any home may have a radon problem, new or old with or without a basement, sealed basement or not. Radon from soil gas is the main cause of radon problems. Other less common sources include well water and building materials. Measuring radon concentration in the air is recommended for initial testing.

HOW DO RADON MITIGATION SYSTEMS WORK?

- Radon systems are permanently installed soil depressurization systems which when active create a vacuum in the soil under the foundation of the home, office or building.
- Mitigation systems continuously block the flow of radon gas by removing it from the soil before it can enter through the foundation.
- The system can be hidden internally by routing the pipes through the attic of the home or can be installed on the exterior of the home.
- Radon specific exhaust fans create a permanent vacuum in the radon suction pipes.
- Passive radon mitigation systems can be installed while the home or building is being constructed. Radon resistant new construction techniques can prevent radon entry without the use of a radon exhaust fan.

Find mitigators in your area by contacting the National Radon Proficiency Program or National Radon Safety Board.
Radon levels in Georgia Counties*

Percentage of homes tested with levels 4.0 pCi/L and above

- 36% and above
- 29% - 35%
- 22% - 28%
- 15% - 21%
- 8% - 14%
- 0% - 7%
- Insufficient data

4.0 pCi/L is EPA's Radon Action level. EPA recommends that you fix your home if your radon level is 4.0 pCi/L or above.

*testing data are from individuals who self-selected to test their homes for radon.

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Data reflect tests from 4 radon labs from January 1990 to December 2018. Counties with fewer than 15 radon tests are not included.