



## What Is Radon?

---

Radon is a radioactive gas found in many homes across Canada. It is created naturally as the uranium in the ground breaks down. Radon is invisible; you can't see it, smell it or taste it.

All homes have some level of radon. The question is how much and the only way to know is to test. Radon can seep into your home through cracks in the foundation, pipe openings, and other places where the house is open to the ground. In confined spaces like a house, radon can build up to high levels and become a health risk. The current Canadian guideline for radon is 200 becquerels per cubic meter (200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>).

### What are the health risks?

Radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. Approximately 16% of lung cancers are estimated to be from radon exposure, resulting in more than 3,200 deaths in Canada each year. People who smoke AND are exposed

to radon have an even higher risk of lung cancer. The health risk from radon is long-term not immediate. The longer you are exposed to high levels of radon, the greater your risk.

### How do I test my home for radon?

Testing for radon is easy and inexpensive. Radon in buildings can be tested by certified radon professionals or with do-it-yourself long-term test kits. To find a certified professional or test kit supplier in your area go to:

[www.takeactiononradon.ca/test](http://www.takeactiononradon.ca/test).

### My home tested above the 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> limit, what now?

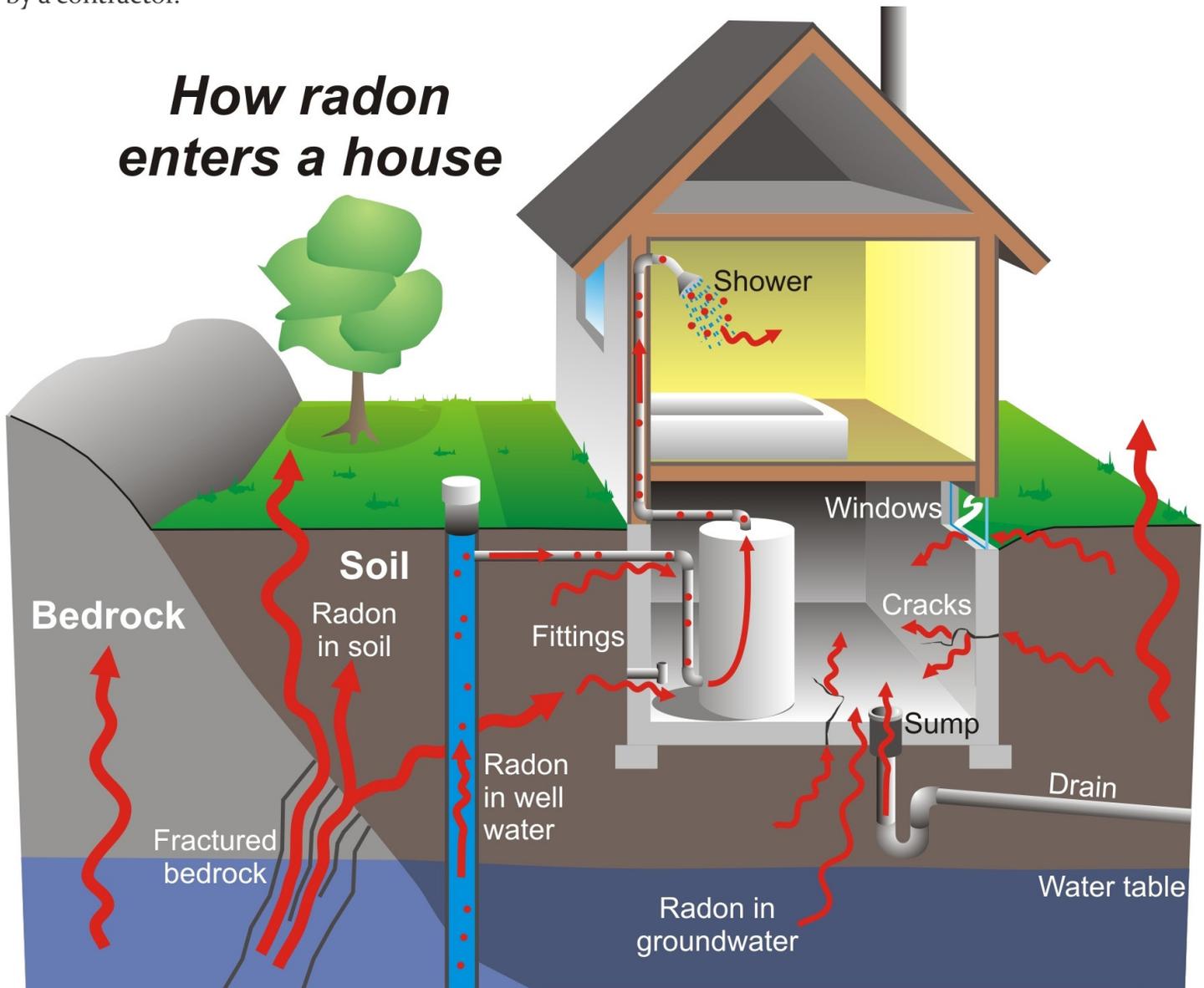
If the radon level in your home is above the guideline of 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>, you need to fix it. The higher the radon level in your home, the sooner it needs to be fixed. You should always try to reduce to the lowest level possible.

Techniques to lower radon levels are effective and can save lives. Radon levels in most homes can be reduced by more than 80% for about the same cost as other common home repairs such as replacing the furnace or air conditioner.

Hire a radon mitigation professional who has been certified under the Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (C-NRPP) to help you find the best way to reduce the radon level in your home. The most common method is active soil depressurization (ASD), typically performed by a contractor.

The air you breathe where you live, work or play is important to your health. The Lung Association is committed to helping you take steps to improve the air you breathe.

## How radon enters a house



Developed in collaboration with Health Canada / Développé en collaboration avec Santé Canada