

Radon: Risk, Action, and Mitigation

Dylan Garrison, Environmental Health
Manager (Consumer Protection)

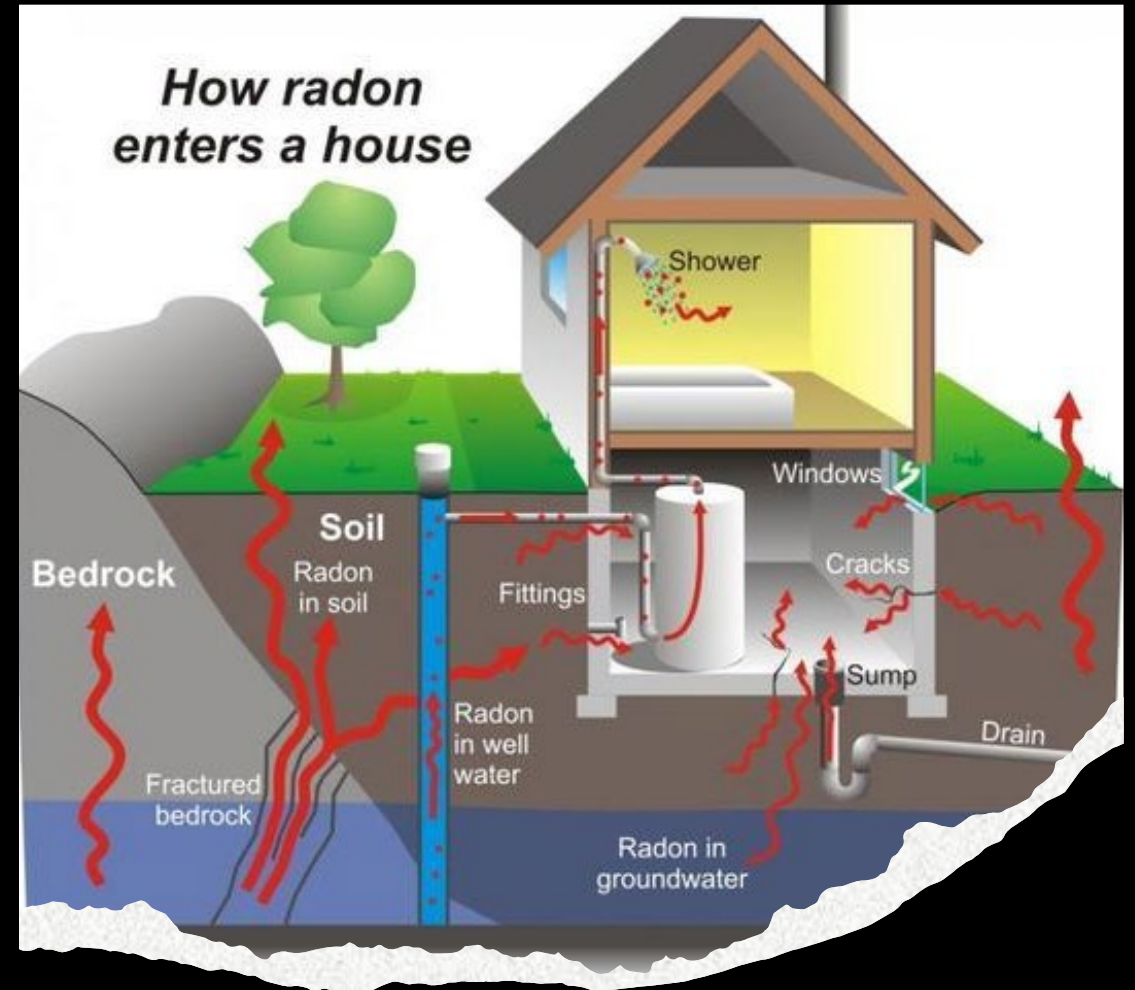
Arapahoe County Board of Health

January 21, 2026



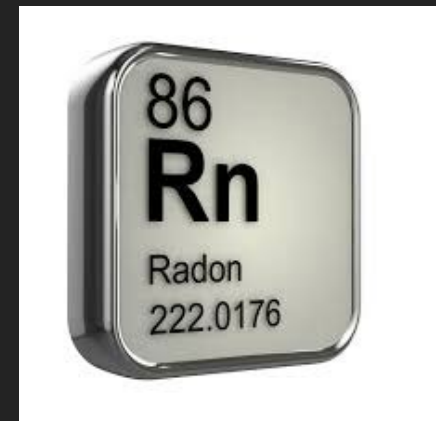
What is Radon?

- Radon is an odorless, invisible and radioactive gas that is released from the natural decay of uranium in rocks, soil and water.
- Radon can enter homes, buildings and schools through small cracks and holes and gradually accumulate in the air to dangerous levels.
- Radon is measured in picocuries per liter (pCi/L) and the EPA has established 4.0 pCi/L as the “action level”



Why is **Radon** a Public Health Concern?

- Breathing in radon releases radioactive particles that damage lung tissue, increasing the risk of lung cancer
- The EPA estimates that radon causes about 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the United States every year
- In the United States, radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers
- 1 in 15 homes in the United States have high radon levels
- Anyone can develop cancer from radon exposure



IS YOUR HOME SAFE FROM RADON?

What is radon? Radon is a naturally occurring invisible, odorless gas that comes from the natural radioactive breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water.

Radon can enter any home Radon is drawn in through cracks and gaps in the foundation.

Radon occurs naturally in soil Due to the geology of Colorado, homes in our state have higher levels of radon than the national average.


200 chest x-rays That's more than three per week, per person, per year. In Colorado, living in a home with average levels of radon (4.0 pCi/L) for one year is like having 200 chest x-rays every year. That's more than three chest x-rays for every person in the house every week.

Radon causes cancer Every year in the U.S., over **20,000** people die from lung cancer caused by radon.

Radon decays into radioactive particles that, when inhaled, can damage the DNA in sensitive lung cells. The damaged cells can become cancerous.

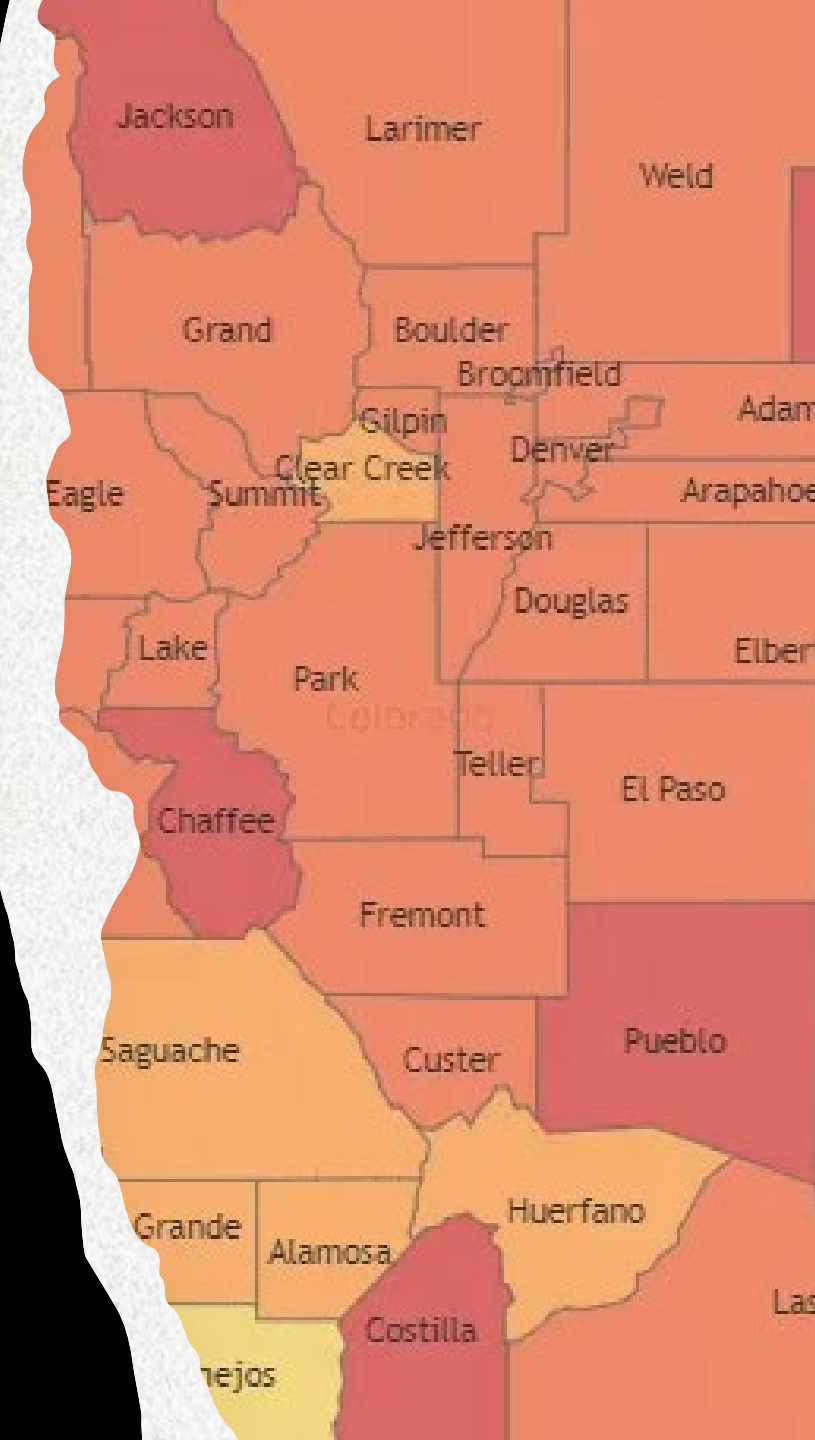
Fixing radon is easy and safe

Contact Your Health
Colorado Department of Public Health
1-800-455-5889



Radon In Colorado / Arapahoe County

- One out of every two homes in Colorado has elevated radon levels
- Almost half of all homes in Arapahoe County have elevated radon levels (48.84%)



ACPH Actions with Radon Grant Funding

1. Raise Awareness & Encourage Mitigation
 - Enhance ACPH Web Page
 - Distribute Newsletter Articles
 - “Boost” Social Media posts during January: National Radon Action Month (NRAM)
2. Provide Free Radon Test Kits to the Public
3. Outreach and Presentations to In-Home Child Care Providers
4. Metro Area Billboard Collaboration



Be Radon Aware: It's A Leading Cause of Cancer—Especially In Colorado

Radon, [the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers in the United States](#), is found at elevated levels in 50% of Colorado homes, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE). The naturally-occurring, invisible, odorless, and tasteless radioactive gas that can [enter homes from the ground](#) and build up to

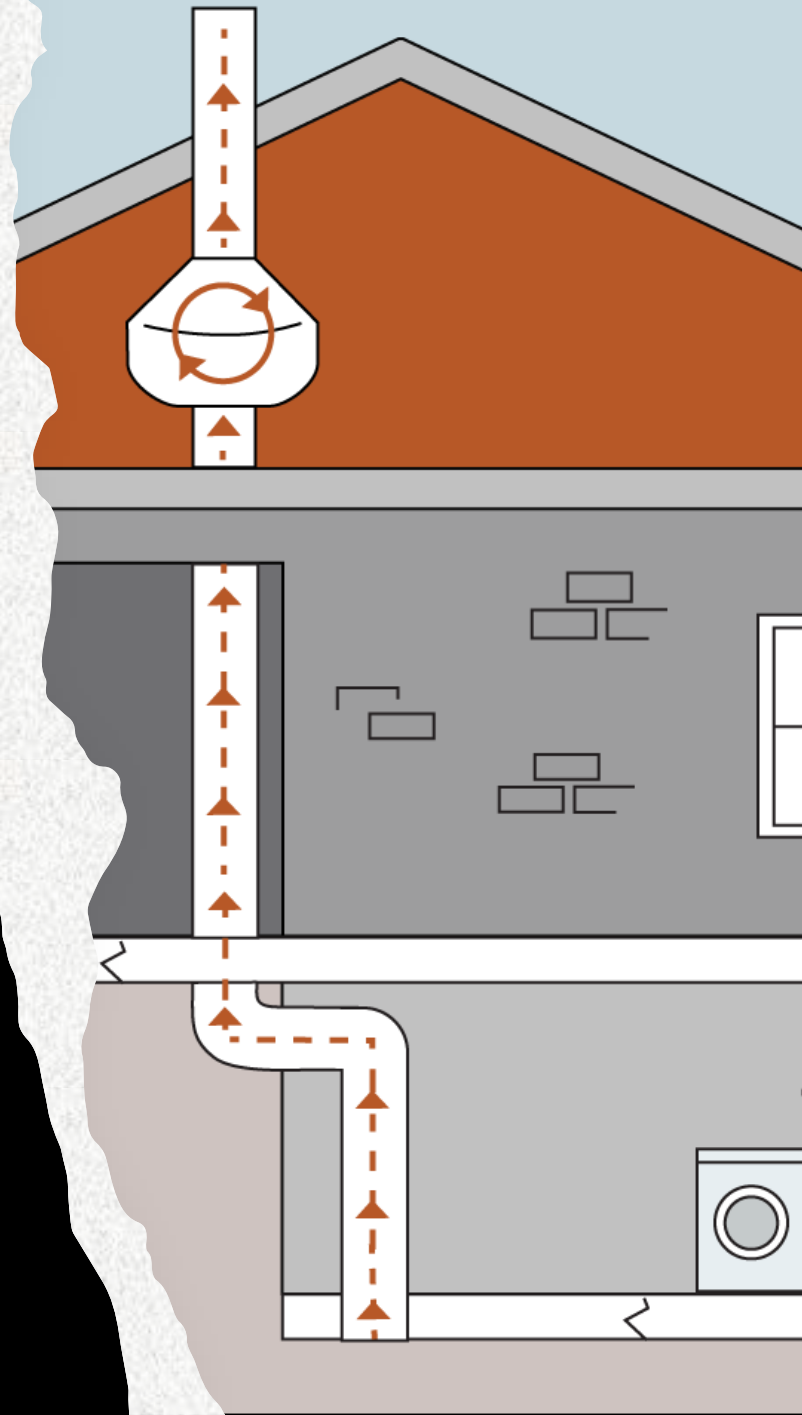
ACPH Radon Billboard

- Location: NW Corner of Parker and E. Iliff
 - Posted the month of January 2026
 - Billboard on both the north and south facing sides



Radon Mitigation

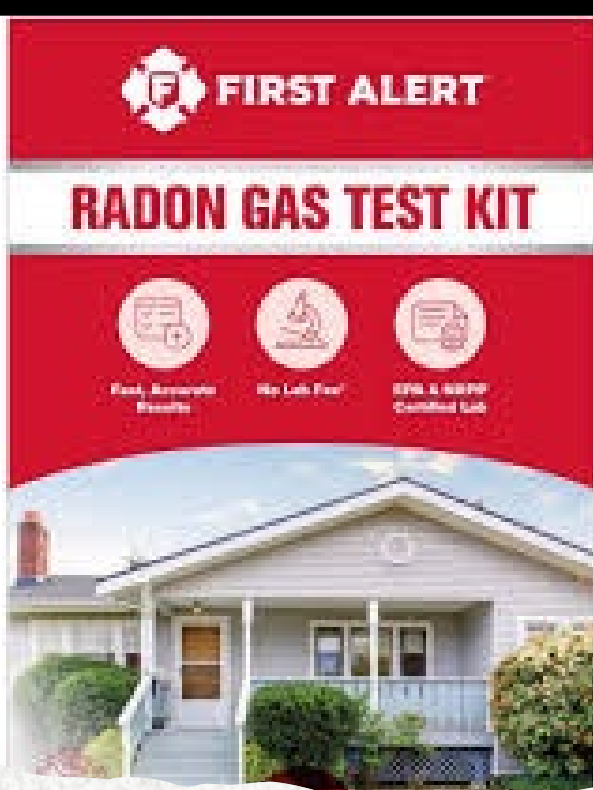
- Achieved by installing a system that removes radon gas buildup from indoor spaces
- Typically accomplished by using a fan to vent the radon gas from a suction point through tubing to the outdoors
- Costs range from 1 – 3 thousand dollars per system



Call To Action: Educate, Test, Mitigate

- Educate yourself on Radon and encourage others to do the same
- Encourage testing
 - ✓ Only way to know if radon is present
 - ✓ Test kits are inexpensive and often free
- Promote and encourage mitigation
 - ✓ Low Income Radon Mitigation Assistance (LIRMA) Program





Thank You!
Comments or Questions?