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## Do I Have a Radon Problem?

- Testing is the only way to know if you and your family is at risk
- Nearly 8 million homes have elevated levels of Radon (EPA)
- The EPA has predicted that homes in Fairfield County are likely to have levels of Radon greater than 4 pCi/L, which represents the equivalent cancer risk posed by smoking 8 cigarettes a day
- Radon problems in both homes and water supplies can be fixed. Radon reduction systems are relatively simple to install, work very efficiently and can reduce Radon levels by up to 99%
- For more information and a list of state approved Radon Mitigation Contractors visit:

[www.ct.gov/dph/radon](http://www.ct.gov/dph/radon)

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## Further Resources

### Radon test kits are available at:

- the Darien Health Department  
Darien Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Rd.,  
*FREE!* While supplies last!
- American Lung Association... 1-800-LUNG-USA
- National Radon Services...  
[www.sosradon.org/test-kits](http://www.sosradon.org/test-kits)

If you have any questions, please contact the Darien Health Department  
203-656-7320

[www.darienct.gov/health](http://www.darienct.gov/health)



## Radon: Is My Family Safe?



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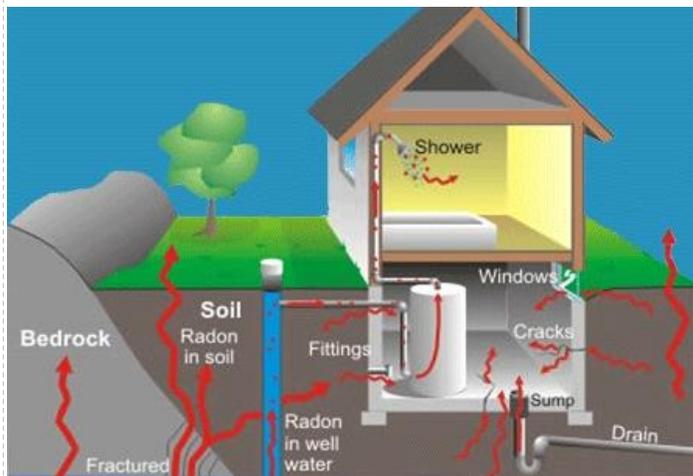
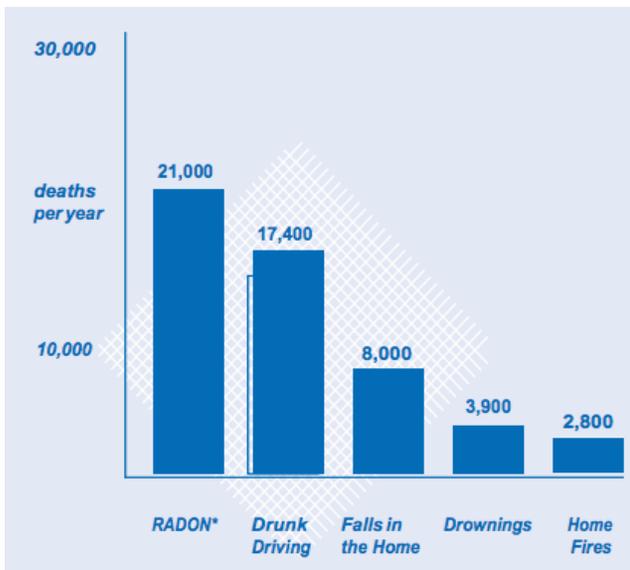
Darien Health  
Department

[www.darienct.gov/health](http://www.darienct.gov/health)

# What is Radon?

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that:

- does not have a scent, smell, or taste
- is produced from the breakdown or radioactive decay of uranium found in bedrock
- Is most commonly found in igneous rock, soil, and well water
- accounts for more than half of our total average exposure to radiation;
- becomes harmful when it becomes concentrated in homes and is inhaled.



## How Does it Enter Your Home?

- Radon moves easily through building materials like paint, sheetrock, concrete, mortar, wood paneling, and insulation due to differences in air pressure.
- It enters your home through open sump pumps in the basement floor, cracks in basement floors, construction joints, cracks in walls, gaps in suspended floors, gaps around service pipes, cavities inside walls, and the water supply pipelines.
- Highest levels of Radon are found in basements during winter months

## What Risks are Associated with Radon?

- Radon gas is considered to be the second leading cause of lung cancer; only smoking causes more deaths due to lung cancer
- Radon decays into radioactive particles that are trapped in your lungs when inhaled
- These particles release small bursts of energy that damage lung tissue over time
- Smokers and non-smokers living with smokers in a home with elevated radon have an increased chance of acquiring lung cancer.

