



**Alameda County  
Lead Poisoning  
Prevention Program**

510-567-8280  
www.aclppp.org

**Radon & Home Sales**

More and more, homebuyers and renters are asking about radon levels before they buy or rent a home. The best thing to do is to test for radon NOW and save the results in case the buyer or renter is interested in them. Fix a problem if it exists so it won't complicate your home sale.

*Recommended reading: EPA's pamphlet "[Home Buyer's and Seller's Guide to Radon.](#)"*

## A Key to Healthy Housing

### RADON

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Radon is a natural, radioactive gas that is colorless, odorless and tasteless. Radon is caused by the natural breakdown of uranium in soil.

Radon gets into buildings by moving up through the ground, through cracks in the foundation, gaps around pipes and into living spaces. Your home traps radon inside, where it can build up. Any home may have a radon problem; new homes and old homes, well-sealed and drafty homes, and homes with or without basements. You and your family are most likely to get your greatest exposure at home, where you spend most of your time.

#### **Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon.**

The EPA and the Surgeon General recommend testing all homes for radon. Testing is inexpensive and easy — it should only take a few minutes of your time. Millions of Americans have already tested their homes for radon. Risk is determined by the geological history of your property and can vary from house to house. Based on past test results, Alameda County is considered low risk, but everyone is encouraged to test their homes and businesses.

**More information about radon and low-cost test kits is available from the California Department of Public Health. Contact CDPH at (916) 449-5674 or [www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/environhealth](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/environhealth). Or visit [www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon), [www.nchh.org](http://www.nchh.org), or [www.aclppp.org](http://www.aclppp.org).**

***RADON MYTH: Radon testing is time-consuming and expensive.***

**RADON FACT:** Radon testing is easy. You can test your home yourself or hire a qualified radon test company. Either approach takes only a small amount of time and effort.

***RADON MYTH: Homes with radon problems can't be fixed.***

**RADON FACT:** There are simple solutions to radon problems that can be installed at the same cost as other common home repairs. Call the California Department of Public Health at (916) 449-5674 for help in identifying qualified mitigation contractors.

***RADON MYTH: Radon is only a problem in certain states.***

**RADON FACT:** High radon levels are found in every state. Radon problems vary from area to area. The only way to know your radon level is to test.

***RADON MYTH: A neighbor's test result is a good indication of whether your home has a problem.***

**RADON FACT:** It is NOT. Radon levels can vary greatly from home to home. The only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test it.