

# **RADON**

**Radon is a gas that you can't see, smell or taste,  
but it can affect your health.**

**Radon causes about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year.**

**Testing for RADON is easy  
and RADON problems can be fixed.**

**FREE testing kits can be obtained at the Mayor's office  
while supplies last.**

**Questions? 908 769-2902 - [radon@npmail.org](mailto:radon@npmail.org)**

# *Take the Radon Test*

1. Microwave ovens produce radon.  
 True     False
2. Radon can cause headaches and asthma.  
 True     False
3. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers.  
 True     False
4. New homes, as well as older homes, can have radon problems.  
 True     False
5. Opening windows is always a reliable way to reduce radon levels.  
 True     False
6. Radon can be a problem in homes without basements.  
 True     False

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection  
Radon Section



1. Microwave ovens produce radon.

FALSE. Radon comes from naturally occurring uranium in the soil. Uranium is found everywhere, but more commonly in some types of rocks, such as black shale and granite.

2. Radon can cause headaches and asthma.

FALSE. Lung cancer is the only known health impact. Radon breaks down into radioactive decay products that give off 'alpha particles', a type of radiation. Alpha particles don't have enough energy to penetrate a sheet of paper, or the skin covering our bodies, but can penetrate the delicate linings of lung cells, causing cell damage that leads to cancer.

3. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers.

TRUE. Radon causes 15,000 – 22,000 deaths per year in the U.S., second only to smoking, according to a 1998 review of risk evidence by the National Academy of Sciences. Radon causes about a third of lung cancer deaths among non-smokers.

4. New homes, as well as older homes, can have radon problems.

TRUE. New homes are as likely to have radon problems as older homes – the only way to know is to test.

5. Opening windows is always a reliable way to reduce radon levels.

FALSE. Although ventilation often will dilute radon concentrations, the opening of windows can also cause air currents that will depressurize the house, drawing more radon in from the underlying soil.

6. Radon can be a problem in homes without basements.

TRUE. Any portion of the house in contact with the ground is an entryway for radon.

## QUESTIONS?

CALL THE DEP RADON PROGRAM  
(800) 648-0394

IF OUTSIDE NEW JERSEY, CALL (609) 984-5425

[www.njradon.org](http://www.njradon.org)

