

## **INTRODUCTION**

\*This provides information from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) on radon and how to protect your family's health.

\*ODH, the U.S. Surgeon General and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommend every Ohio home be tested for radon.

## **RADON IS...**

- A naturally occurring radioactive gas
- Odorless, Colorless and tasteless
- Comes from the breakdown of uranium found in rocks and soil.

## **IMPORTANCE OF RADON**

\*Breathing air with elevated level of radon over a period of time can cause damage to lung tissue and cells which increases the risk of lung cancer.

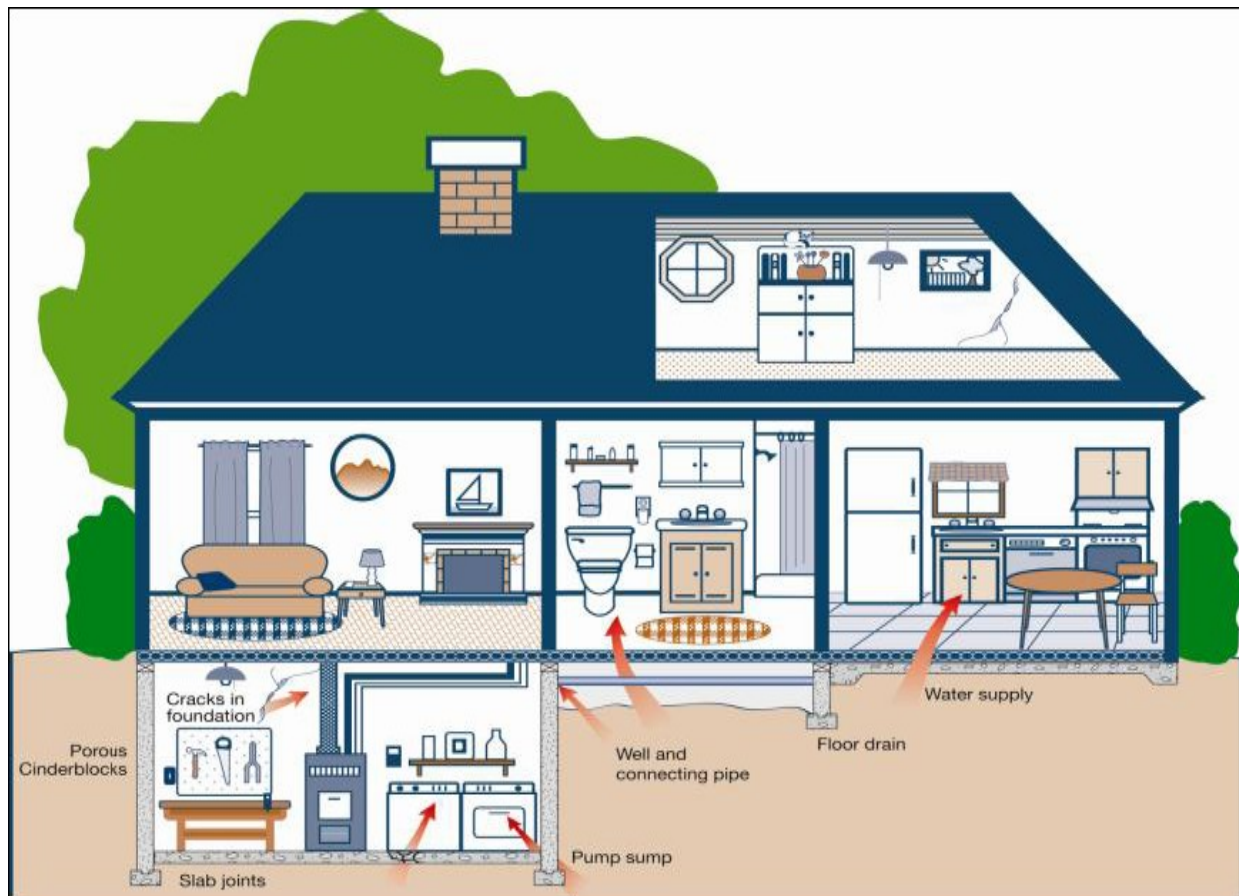
\*According to the U.S. Surgeon General, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer among smokers and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

## HOW DOES RADON ENTER A HOME?

\*Radon, because it is a gas, it is able to move through spaces in the soil and enter a home through the following:

- dirt floor,
- crawl spaces,
- unsealed sumps,
- cracks in walls.

\*Ohio homes tend to operate as a vacuum (suction) to pull soil gases, including radon, into the lower level of a structure especially during the season when you heat your home.



## **DOES YOUR HOME HAVE A RADON PROBLEM?**

- \*A radon test is the only way to find out if your home has elevated levels of radon.
- \*Performing a radon test is easy, inexpensive and can be done privately.
- \*Test results from nearby homes cannot be relied upon to predict the radon level in another home because every home is unique in its construction, soil and maintenance.

## **RADON PROTECTION**

- \*Fix your home if the radon level is 4pCi/LpicoCuries per Liter or more.
- \*If your radon test indicates that your home has elevated levels of radon, have a radon mitigation system installed by an ODH licensed mitigation contractor to reduce radon level.
- \*The Indoor Radon Program at ODH can provide homeowners with a list of licensed contractors in their area.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

Ohio Department of Health  
Indoor Radon Program  
[www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov)  
**1-800-523-4439**

Columbiana County Health Department  
Environmental Division  
Shannon Sellards R.S.  
**330-424-0272 ext. 128**

US EPA  
[www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon)  
**1-800-SOS-RADON**