

"All students have the right to expect a safe and healthy school environment. Teachers and other school employees should encourage their schools to conduct radon tests and undertake all necessary corrective actions. The health of our children demands no less."

**— Keith Geiger
NEA President**

"When environmental hazards such as radon endanger the healthful environment of a school, parents must become involved to ensure that the buildings are safe. Radon in schools poses a real danger, but fortunately one that can be addressed quickly and at relatively low cost. To ignore the problem would be a serious mistake."

**— Ann Lynch
National PTA President**

For more information contact your State Radon Office.

AL (205) 261-5315
AK (907) 465-3019
AZ (602) 255-4845
AR (501) 661-2301
CA (415) 540-2134
CO (303) 331-4812
CT (203) 566-3122
DE (800) 554-4636
DC (202) 727-7728
FL (800) 543-8279
GA (404) 894-6644
HI (808) 548-4383
ID (208) 334-5927
IL (217) 786-6384
IN (800) 272-9723
IA (515) 281-7781
KS (913) 296-1560
KY (502) 564-3700
LA (504) 925-4518
ME (207) 289-3826
MD (301) 631-3300
MA (413) 586-7525
MI (517) 335-8190
MN (612) 623-5348
MS (601) 354-6657
MO (800) 669-7236 (in State)

MT (406) 444-3671
NE (402) 471-2165
NV (702) 885-5394
NH (603) 271-4674
NJ (800) 648-0394 (in State)
NM (505) 822-2940
NY (800) 458-1158 (in State)
NC (919) 733-4283
ND (701) 224-2348
OH (800) 523-4439
OK (405) 271-5221
OR (503) 229-5797
PA (800) 23-RADON
PR (809) 767-3563
RI (401) 277-2438
SC (803) 734-4700/4631
SD (605) 773-3153
TN (615) 741-4634
TX (512) 835-7000
UT (801) 538-6734
VT (802) 828-2886
VA (800) 468-0138 (in State)
WA (800) 323-9727 (in State)
WV (304) 348-3526/3427
WI (608) 273-8180
WY (307) 777-6015

For more information on radon in homes call **1-800-SOS-Radon**.

nea The National
Education Association

PTA The National Parent
Teacher Association

BACK COVER

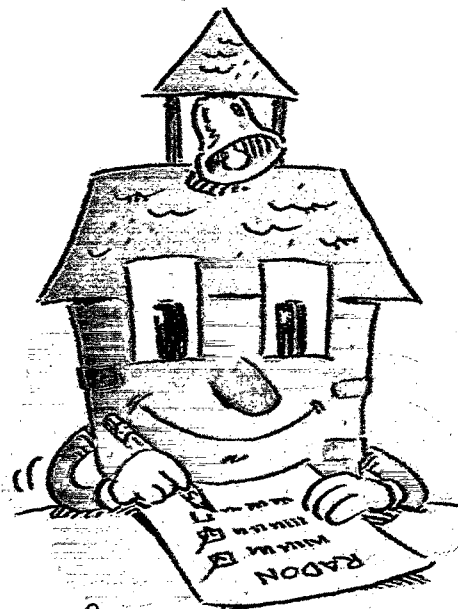
United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

520/1-89-027
October 1999

Air and Radiation (ANR-464)

EPA Radon in Schools

**Every School
Should Take
This
Simple Test.**



FRONT COVER

Chances are you've already heard of radon — a radioactive gas which can cause lung cancer.

But what you might not have heard is that high levels of radon have been found in a number of schools across the country.

Scientists believe that children may be especially vulnerable to the effects of radon. Which is why it is important that both students and parents be aware that a potential problem could exist in their school.

The only way to determine if a problem exists, is to test for it.

Taking a radon test is something you may want to discuss with your school officials. Because as real as the threat of radon is, the good news is that the danger can be eliminated, simply and economically.

Radon Could Be A Serious Threat In Your School.

The EPA ranks indoor radon among the most serious environmental problems facing us today. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

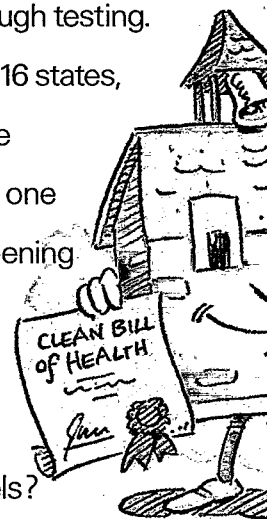
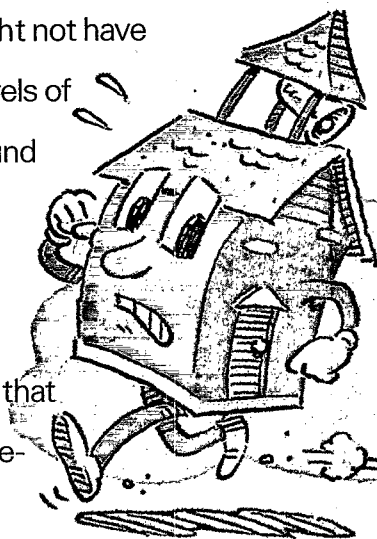
Radon is a naturally occurring gas that seeps into buildings from surrounding soil.

In some cases, well water may be a source of radon.

You can't see, taste or smell radon. In fact, the only way to discover if high levels of radon are present is through testing.

In a preliminary study of 16 states, EPA found that over half the schools tested had at least one classroom with radon screening measurements that exceeded EPA guidelines.

What are the consequences of high radon levels?

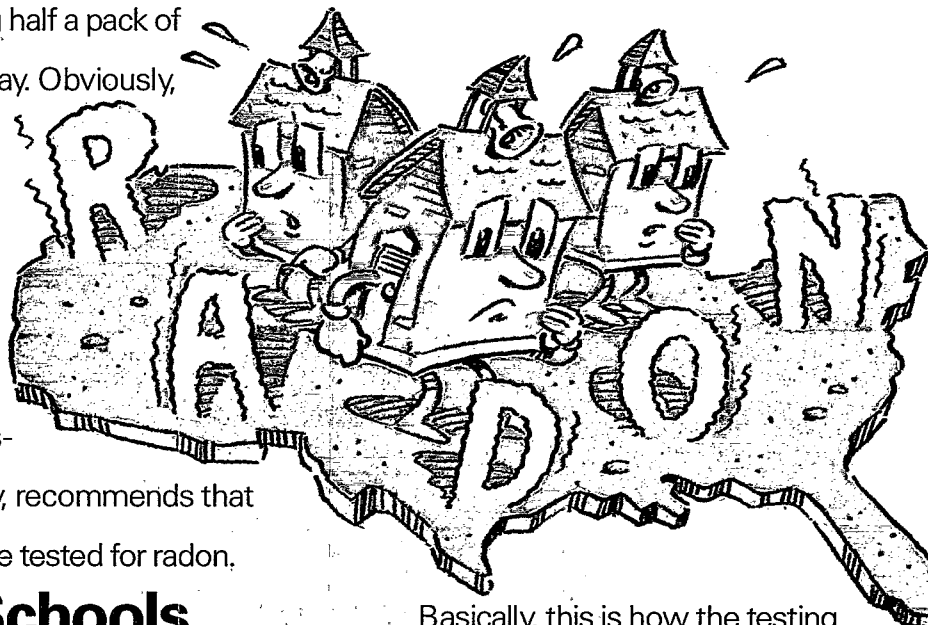


Our children may be exposed to a risk equivalent of smoking half a pack of cigarettes or more a day. Obviously, the higher the radon level, the greater the risk is of developing lung cancer.

As a result of these findings, EPA Administrator, William K. Reilly, recommends that schools nationwide be tested for radon.

How Are Schools Tested For Radon?

Testing for radon is simple. EPA has published guidance that has been issued to schools throughout the country.



Basically, this is how the testing procedure works:

- All frequently used rooms on and below the ground level should be tested.
- Tests should be conducted in the

<u>SCREENING TEST RESULT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<div data-bbox="115 1054 391 1538"> </div> <p>Over 20 pCi/L</p> <p>4 pCi/L – 20 pCi/L</p> <p>Less than 4 pCi/L</p>	<p>School officials should take confirmatory measurements which last 2 days to 4 weeks. If screening measurement is above 100 pCi/L, school officials may wish to relocate children.</p> <p>School officials should take 9-12 month confirmatory measurements.</p> <p>School officials should decide whether confirmatory measurements are necessary.</p>

cooler months of the year.

- Screening tests lasting for 2 days to three months should be conducted to determine a school's potential for having a radon problem.

- Schools should conduct confirmatory measurements if screening levels indicate a potential radon problem (greater than 4 pCi/L).

- Schools should take action to reduce levels if confirmatory measurements are greater than 4 pCi/L.

What Happens If Your School Fails The Test?

Fortunately, if your school does fail the radon test, the problem can be corrected — simply and economically.

Proven techniques are available that will lower radon levels — and lower your child's risk of ever developing lung cancer in his or her lifetime.

Every Home Should Take This Test, Too.

School isn't the only place your child can be exposed to radon.

Since children spend more time at home, radon levels here can pose a much greater threat to their health.

The Surgeon General has joined EPA in issuing a national health advisory urging Americans to test their homes for radon.

"Indoor radon gas is a national health problem. Radon causes thousands of deaths each year. Millions of homes have elevated radon levels. Most homes should be tested for radon. When elevated levels are confirmed, the problem should be corrected."

— Surgeon General

Once again, the testing is simple and inexpensive. For approximately \$10 to \$15, you can determine whether or not your home has a potential radon problem.

After all, radon is one health problem nobody should have to live with — at home or at school.

