

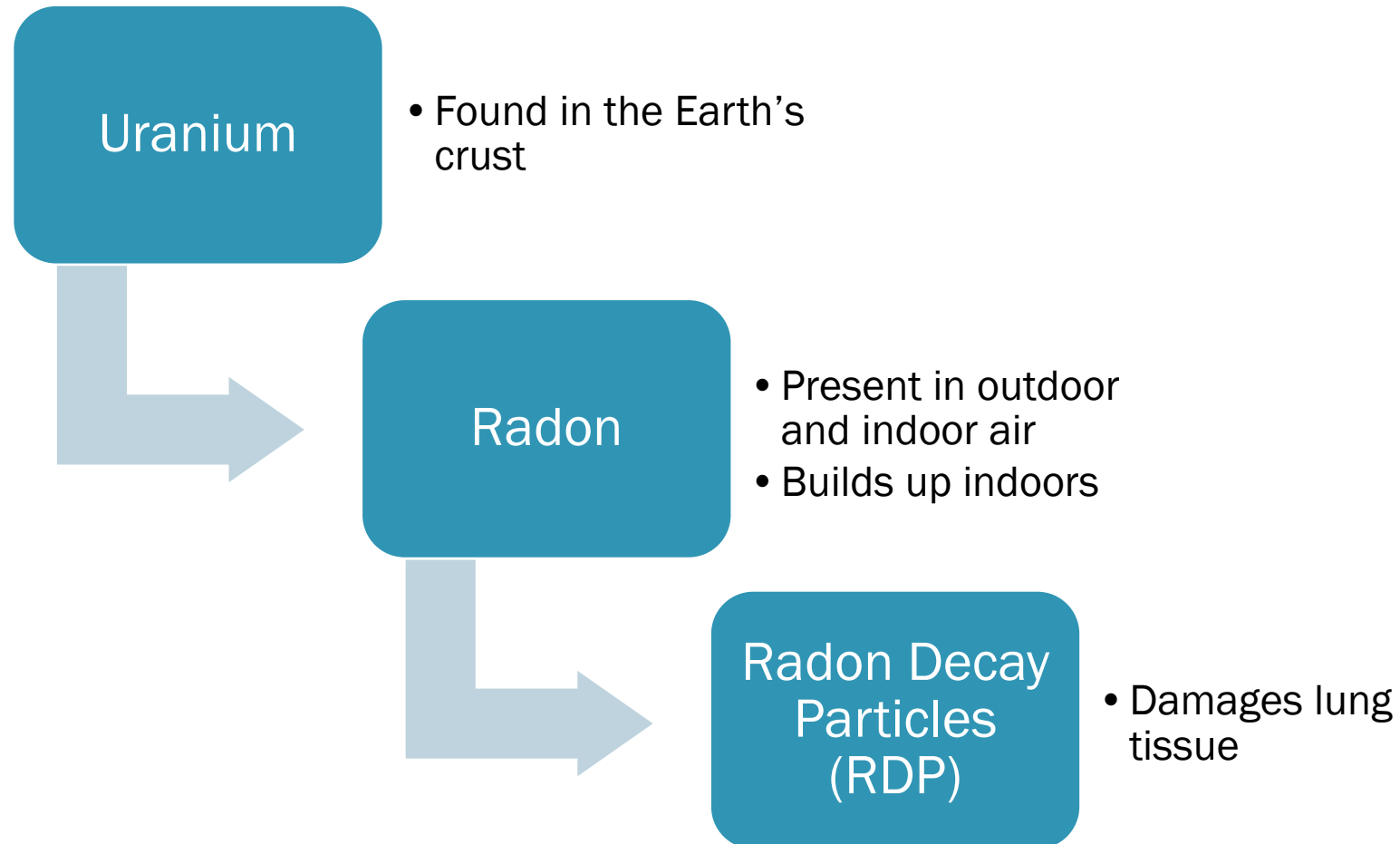


# **VTAAC Lung Cancer Screening Taskforce Meeting**

**Vermont Radon Program**

February 13, 2025

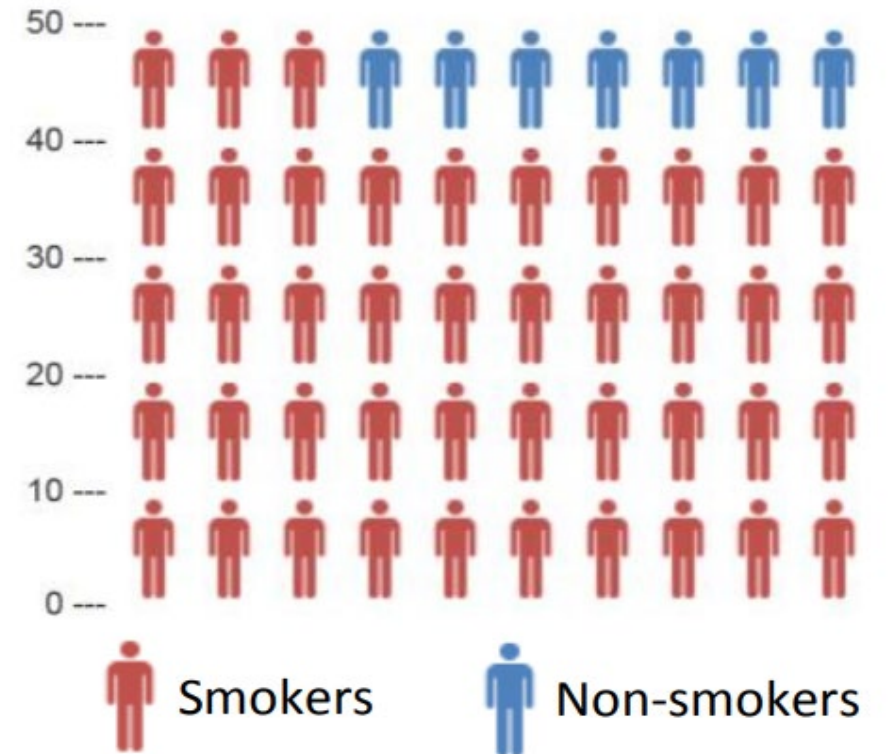
# Radon is naturally occurring radioactive gas the causes lung cancer.



# Radon is an issue in Vermont.

1 in 7 Vermont homes has unsafe levels of radon

An estimated 50 Vermont residents die from radon-related lung cancer each year



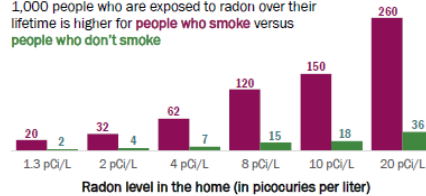
# Radon and smoking is a risky combination.

## Radon and Smoking: A Risky Combination

Quit smoking and test your home for radon to make you and your family safer.

### Radon and tobacco smoke both cause lung cancer.

The estimated number of lung cancer cases for every 1,000 people who are exposed to radon over their lifetime is higher for **people who smoke** versus **people who don't smoke**



If you smoke and your home has high levels of radon, your risk of getting lung cancer is especially high.

### Testing is the only way to know if radon is in your home.

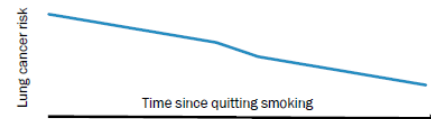
One in seven Vermont homes has elevated levels of radon



Take action to reduce radon levels in your home if the test result is at or above 4 pCi/L.

### Quitting smoking is the best way to reduce your risk.

When compared to people who keep smoking, **people who quit smoking** reduce their risk of lung cancer by 30 to 50% over 10 years



**80% QUILTS**  
YOU CAN QUIT.  
WE CAN HELP.

Sources: Environmental Protection Agency, 2016

National Institutes of Health, 2022

December 2022

Learn more at [healthvermont.gov/radon](https://healthvermont.gov/radon)

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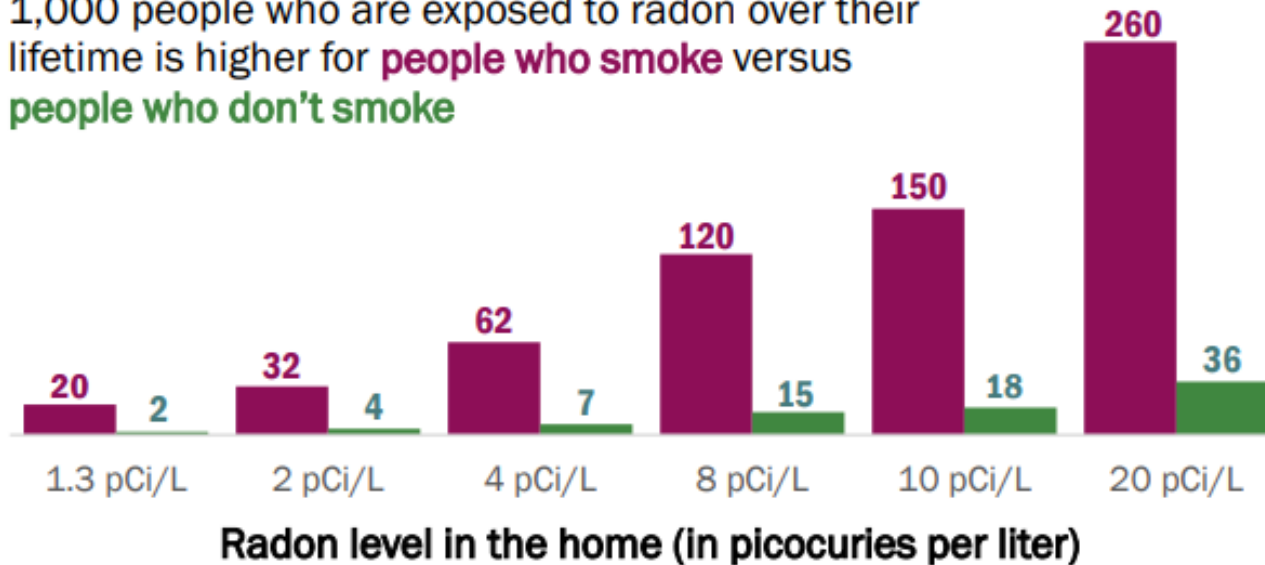
- Radon and smoking both cause lung cancer
- Test to know
- Quit smoking!

# Radon and smoking don't add up, they multiply.



## Radon and tobacco smoke both cause lung cancer.

The estimated number of lung cancer cases for every 1,000 people who are exposed to radon over their lifetime is higher for **people who smoke** versus **people who don't smoke**



If you smoke and your home has high levels of radon, your risk of getting lung cancer is especially high.

\*Source: US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), *A Citizens Guide to Radon*, 2016.

# Many factors impact radon entry into a home or building.

## QUIZ


1. RADON GAS CAN BE SEEN  
TRUE FALSE
2. RADON GAS HAS NO ODOR OR TASTE  
TRUE FALSE
3. RADON GAS CAN CAUSE LUNG CANCER  
TRUE FALSE

## THIS IS A TEST YOU WANT TO TAKE!

### TEST YOUR BUILDING FOR RADON GAS


Radon is a radioactive gas that can cause lung cancer. You can't see, smell or taste it, but it may be in your building.

### FIX IT IF YOU FIND IT




Learn more and get your free radon test kit here.

Radon can **enter your building** through the foundation and from water use but can be lowered to safe levels by installing a **mitigation system**.



[www.HealthVermont.gov/radon](http://www.HealthVermont.gov/radon)

 VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# Unless you test for it, there is no way of knowing if radon is present in a home.

Long-term radon in air tests (RSSI AT-102)

About 3000 distributed each year

Vermont residents can request a free test by:

- [Filling out an online form](#)



- Calling 800-439-8550 (toll-free in VT)

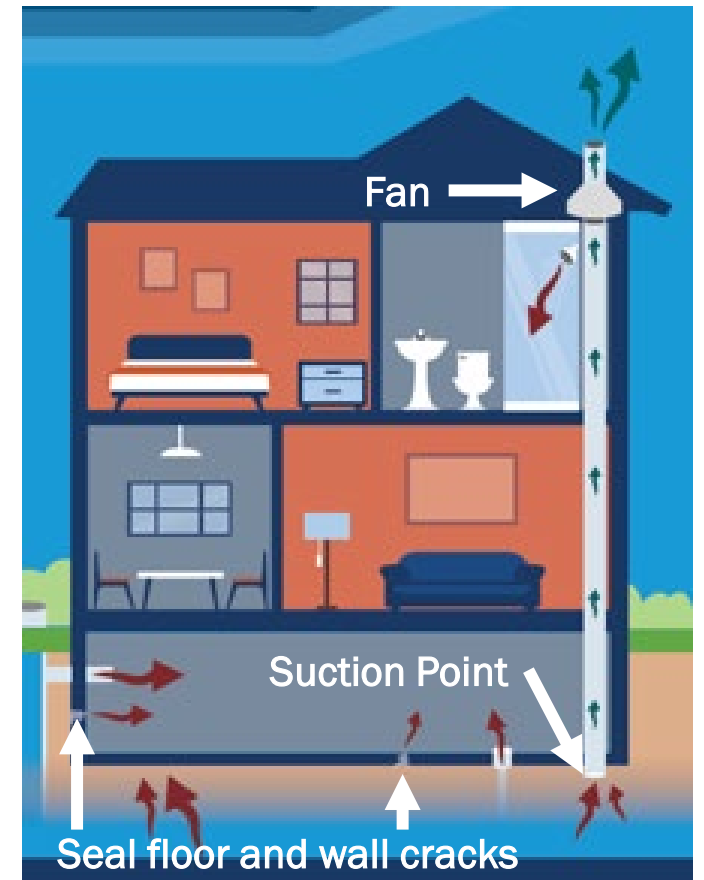


# Radon problems can be fixed.

Mitigation type depends on a home's structure, radon level and the homeowners' goals.

## Two common types:

- Active soil depressurization (ASD)
- Ventilation





# Cost is a barrier to fixing radon problems in homes.

## Radon Mitigation Funding Assistance

Money to help fix a radon problem is available for eligible Vermonters.

If your home has a radon problem, money may be available to help you fix it. There are programs to help eligible Vermonters fix health and safety problems in their homes, including radon problems. Read about the available programs below to see if you qualify.

### NeighborWorks

NeighborWorks organizations provide low-cost loans and grants to eligible Vermonters. To be eligible, you must:

- Own and occupy your home
- Have a gross household income less than 80% of the area median income

There are five organizations serving Vermont:

1. [Champlain Housing Trust](#) serves Chittenden\*, Franklin and Grand Isle counties (\*Burlington properties are not eligible)
2. [Downstreet Housing & Community Development](#) serves Washington, Orange and Lamoille counties
3. [RuralEdge](#) serves Caledonia, Orleans and Essex counties
4. [Neighborworks of Western Vermont](#) serves Addison, Rutland and Bennington counties
5. [Windham & Windsor Housing Trust](#) serves Windham and Windsor counties

Find contact information for your local organization at: [neighborworks.org/OurNetwork/Network-Directory](https://neighborworks.org/OurNetwork/Network-Directory)

### FSA, HSA or HRA

You may be able to use funds from a flexible spending account (FSA), health savings account (HSA) or a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) for radon mitigation if:

- A medical professional recommends radon mitigation because it is causing a medical condition from being in a home
- A Letter of Medical Necessity (LMN) is provided

September 2021

Learn more at [healthvermont.gov/radon](https://healthvermont.gov/radon)

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## Radon Mitigation Funding Assistance

Money to help fix a radon problem is available for eligible Vermonters.

### USDA Rural Development's Section 504 Home Repair Program

The Section 504 Home Repair program provides low-cost loans and grants to eligible Vermonters. To be eligible, you must:

- Own and occupy your home
- Have a gross household income less than 50% of the area median income
- Live in an eligible area. ([Check your address](#) to determine your eligibility. Burlington residents are not eligible.)
- Be age 62 or older and not be able to repay a loan (for grants)

Find more information at:

[rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants](https://rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants)

### Burlington Lead Program

The Burlington Lead Program provides forgivable loans and grants to eligible households in Burlington and Winooski. To be eligible, you must:

- Live at a property built before 1978
- Have a gross household income less than 80% of the area median income
- Have at least one bedroom
- Have a child under age 6 (for owner-occupied homes)
- Be enrolled with the Burlington Lead Program to reduce lead hazards. Apply at [burlingtonvt.gov/blp/application](https://burlingtonvt.gov/blp/application).

For more information, email [blp@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:blp@burlingtonvt.gov) or call 802-865-LEAD(5323).

September 2021

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# Listen to Kathy's story about the impact of high radon levels in her childhood home.



“

**Primary care visits serve as key opportunities to ask about home radon levels and educate patients.**

***Dr. Timothy Mullett***

*Medical Director, Markey Cancer Center Affiliate Network at the University of Kentucky*



Vermont Department of Health  
CS345577-A

[www.cdc.gov/radon](http://www.cdc.gov/radon)

# VTAAC and the Vermont Radon Program

Increase radon awareness and encourage testing and mitigation.

Researchers are using radon data to develop recommendations for lung cancer screening based on radon exposure.

Support policy initiatives that reduce radon risk.

Collaborate with 802Quits and other smoking cessation efforts.

Other ideas??