



## 1. What is radon and where can I find it?

Radon is a radioactive gas released from the natural breakdown of uranium and radium in rocks and soil. Radon is odorless, colorless, and tasteless. It can remain in the soil, or move to the surface and enter the air or groundwater. Most areas of Los Angeles County do not have high levels of radon.

## 2. How might I be exposed to radon?

People are exposed to radon by breathing it in the air. Radon usually exists at very low levels outdoors. In areas where the amount of uranium and radium in rocks is high, it can build up in indoor air. People can also be exposed to radon by drinking water from wells containing radon.

## 3. How can radon affect my health?

Years of exposure to high levels of radon can cause lung cancer and other lung diseases, such as emphysema and thickening of lung tissues. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. If you smoke and are exposed to high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer and lung disease is especially high.

## 4. How can I reduce my exposure to radon?

- Testing for radon in your home is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk for radon exposure.
- If you think you have been exposed to radon, contact your health care provider.
- For a list of certified providers of radon services or to purchase a test kit, please contact the California Department of Public Health Indoor Radon Program at 1-800-745-7236.

### Sources

1. *Radon*. L.A. County Department of Public Health. <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh>
2. *Radon*. California Department of Public Health. <http://cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/environhealth>
3. *Radon*. Environmental Protection Agency. <http://epa.gov/radon>

For additional resources, please visit the L.A. County Department of Public Health website:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov>.