

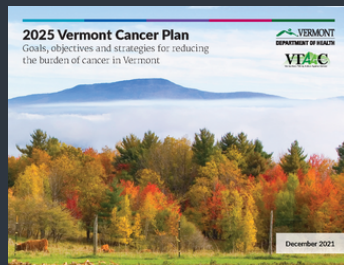
Vermont Radon Fact Sheet

VERMONT RADON PROGRAM

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/radon>

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Vermont Cancer Plan
https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/publications/cancer/ccc/vermont_ccc_plan-508.pdf

The food we eat, the air we breathe, the products we use, and the conditions in which we live, work, learn and play affect our health. The mission of the **Vermont Division of Environmental Health** is to prevent illness or disease that may be caused by environmental threats, both natural and human-made, and to reduce or eliminate harmful environmental exposures. We do this by applying sound science and regulation to assess and minimize risk. We provide data, information and education about health and the environment. We offer a variety of programs, all designed to ensure that healthy Vermonters live in healthy environments.

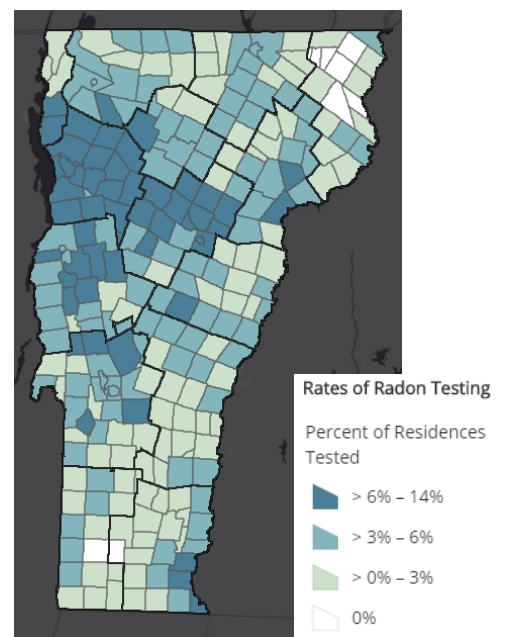
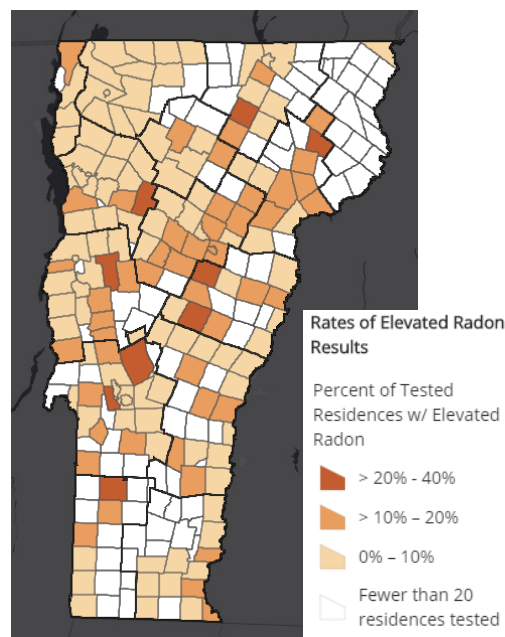
Radon in Vermont

One in seven Vermont homes has unsafe levels of radon. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that has no color, smell or taste. Radon comes from the decay of uranium, which is a radioactive element found naturally in the earth's crust. Over billions of years, uranium decays into radium, and eventually, radon.

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

Smoking and radon are the leading causes of lung cancer. Radon and smoking risks don't add up. They multiply.

The average level of radon in Vermont homes is 2.3 picocuries per liter (pCi/L), compared to the national average of 1.3 pCi/L.



About the Program

The Vermont Radon Program offers free long-term radon in air test kits to Vermont residents. Many Vermonters have tested their homes and the program continues to provide outreach on the importance of testing homes for radon. The program provides further outreach to any home with a radon level greater or equal to 2.0 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L) with the objective to

increase the number of homes that install a radon mitigation system.

The Vermont Radon Program also promotes and educates builders and contractors on the use of radon-resistant new construction (RRNC) techniques and promotes the adoption of RRNC language in building codes.

Pending/Enacted Legislation

Vermont law does not require a radon test as part of a real estate transaction. For real estate transactions or other cases where a quick test is needed, the Vermont Health Department Laboratory sells short-term radon test kits. Short-term test kits can also be purchased from private labs and building supply stores.

In 2021, the Vermont legislature passed a law requiring all schools to test for radon (Section 12 of Act 72). Under the Act, schools must follow the ANSI/AARST Protocol for Conducting Measurements of Radon and Radon Decay Products in Schools and Large Buildings. This includes hiring a certified radon measurement professional. If a radon problem is found, the Vermont Radon Program recommends taking action to fix it.

Vermont Cancer Control Plan

With an objective to prevent cancer from occurring, the plan focuses on tobacco, oral health, physical activity and nutrition, HPV and Environmental Hazards (ultraviolet radiation, radon and safe drinking water). Strategies to reduce the burden of radon induced lung cancer include support partners and promoting programs focused on reducing environmental hazards like radon in air and water

The plan includes goals to reduce exposure to environmental hazards among Vermonters. Specifically, one goal is to reduce exposure to radon by increasing the percent of households that install a radon mitigation system when they receive a high radon test result.

It is estimated that 50 Vermonters die from radon-related lung cancer each year. Most of the deaths occur among smokers and former smokers.

Funding

The Vermont Radon Program is funded by the EPA's State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG). This grant is 60% federally funded with a minimum 40% match from the state. The SIRG funding helps the Vermont Radon Program create and distribute outreach materials, purchase and distribute long-term radon in air tests, provide sub-grants to partners and funds program staff.

