



FREQUENTLY ASKED RADON MITIGATION QUESTIONS

QUESTION: WHAT IS RADON?

ANSWER: Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive soil gas. It is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Radon is estimated to cause thousands of deaths each year. When you breathe radon-contaminated air, you are increasing your risk of lung cancer. In fact, the U.S. Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States today--just behind smoking. If you smoke and your home has high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is especially high.

QUESTION: IS IT A CONFLICT OF INTEREST TO USE THE SAME TESTER AND MITIGATOR?

ANSWER: No. As long as the company is licensed and certified as both a tester and a mitigator, the company can legally provide both. **Radon Systems** is licensed in the State of Ohio and is certified by NEHA (National Environmental Health Association) as a radon tester and mitigator. All testing and radon mitigation services provided by **Radon Systems** meet all standards and applicable building codes.

QUESTION: HOW MUCH DOES RADON MITIGATION COST?

ANSWER: The average radon mitigation is installed for under \$1000. Some homes require multiple mitigation techniques and/or systems so the cost will be different. In new homes, the cost to install a passive system is less since the system is installed during construction. **Radon Systems** performs a thorough building investigation prior to initiating any radon mitigation work, and each system is designed for that structure based on that information collected.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE MOST COMMONLY USED METHOD TO REDUCE RADON LEVELS?

ANSWER: Sub-slab depressurization is the most common and most reliable radon reduction method. This method prevents radon from entering your home by drawing radon from beneath the house and venting it with a fan to the outside where it is diluted. Should multiple foundations exist, all areas in contact with the soil should be treated.

QUESTION: **WE DO NOT HAVE A CRAWL SPACE, SO CAN WE STILL HAVE RADON?**

ANSWER: Yes. Radon can move through a concrete slab, through block, concrete walls, or any other building material in the home. If you have a radon source under the slab, you could have an elevated radon level in the home.

QUESTION: **WILL SEALING CRACKS REDUCE THE RADON LEVELS?**

ANSWER: No. Sealing of wall and floor cracks is never a stand alone radon technique. Radon is a gas; therefore, as a gas, it can move through a concrete slab. Sealing does make a radon mitigation system work better. The results of sealing will be less air being drawn into the system which will result in a quieter and less expensive system to operate.

QUESTION: **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO INSTALL THE RADON MITIGATION SYSTEM?**

ANSWER: Most radon reduction systems can be installed in just a few hours. Since **Radon Systems** has installed thousands of systems over the years, we are extremely efficient with our installations. All **Radon Systems** technicians have been thoroughly trained in the proper installation of radon reduction systems required in the EPA Radon Mitigation Standards and are full-time employees. We can provide a licensed electrician on system installations to wire the fan according to all local or national electric codes where required.

QUESTION: **WILL MY RADON SYSTEM ALSO HAVE OTHER BENEFITS?**

ANSWER: Yes. Some of the comments we frequently hear from our customers are: "the dehumidifier seems to run less"; "the house feels cleaner"; and "the musty smell in the basement is gone."

QUESTION: **HOW LONG WILL MY RADON FAN LAST?**

ANSWER: The fan manufacturer warrants their fan for five years from the date it is installed. However, we frequently test and service some of our existing radon mitigation systems that we installed in the 1980's. The secret to

extended fan life is to keep the fan operating continuously. If the system is turned off, the bearings cannot be lubricated; and the fan can be affected by increased moisture in the fan components. When that happens, the life expectancy of the fan is greatly reduced.

QUESTION: IF WE USE OUR CRAWL FOR STORAGE, WILL WE STILL BE ABLE TO USE IT AFTER INSTALLATION OF A MITIGATION SYSTEM?

ANSWER: Yes. However, after mitigation, try to keep all storage at least one foot from exterior walls. This will keep you from pulling the plastic off the wall. Should the plastic ever be ripped or holes developed, simply duct tape over the damaged areas. This will reduce the amount of air being drawn into the system in general. It is highly recommended that a pad, such as cardboard, old carpets, etc., be placed at the crawl entrance where most damage is likely to occur.

QUESTION: MY MONOMETER ON MY RADON SYSTEM IS NEARLY AT ZERO, SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?

ANSWER: No. The u-tube monometer is an indicator of the pressure that is created by the active radon mitigation system—not an indication of the radon level. Depending on many variables, you could have higher or lower pressures indicated on the u-tube. Generally, the tighter the soil, the higher the pressure; and the more porous the soil (gravel, drain tile, and/or crawl spaces), less pressure would be indicated. It is also possible for tight damp soil to dry out over time with a radon system which could result in less pressure than before. This does not mean that the radon system is not working. Because the pressure is always changing, a radon test is the only method to check the effectiveness of the radon mitigation system.