

RADON TESTING IN SCHOOLS

Learn more about radon, how it can affect student and staff health, and testing recommendations for schools.

Radon can build up to harmful levels in any home or building. Exposure to radon increases your risk of developing lung cancer.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends all schools be tested for radon. Contact radon.utah.gov to get help with testing.

WHAT IS RADON?

Radon is a radioactive gas with no odor, color, or taste. It is produced underground from the natural breakdown of uranium. The gas moves through the soil to the surface and into the air. Radon gas can get into any type of building, including homes, offices, and schools.

Radon gas decays into radioactive particles that can get trapped in your lungs when you breathe. These particles can damage lung tissue and lead to cancer. Radon is the number one leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers.

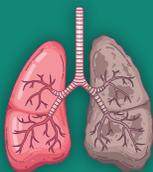
EVERY SCHOOL SHOULD TEST FOR RADON

There is no safe level of radon exposure. Testing is the only way to determine if your school has elevated radon levels. The basics of testing are:

- Test all frequently used rooms on and below the ground level
- Conduct tests in the cooler months of the year
- Re-test every 2 to 5 years or following a building upgrade

DID YOU KNOW?

In the US, radon is the #1 leading cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers and the #2 cause of lung cancer overall.



A nationwide survey of radon in schools estimates that one in five has at least one schoolroom with levels that can harm health.



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HOW ARE SCHOOLS TESTED FOR RADON?

Because radon levels in schools have been found to vary significantly from room to room, schools should test all frequently occupied rooms in contact with the ground. There are two types of tests for radon:

- Short-term tests remain in a room for 2-90 days
- Long-term tests remain in a room for more than 90 days and can give a better average of radon levels in a school year

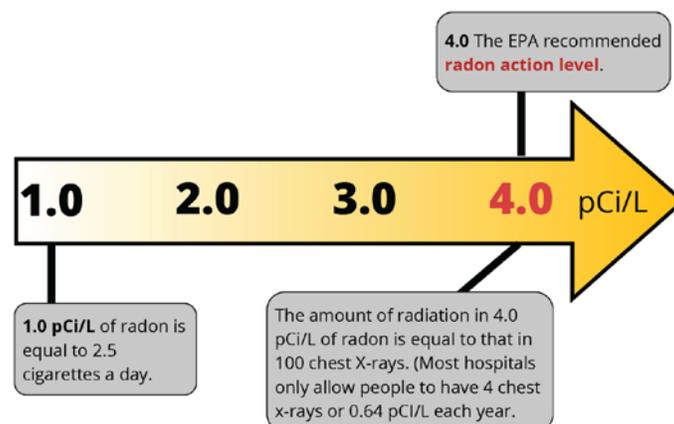
WHAT LEVELS OF RADON REQUIRE ACTION?

The EPA recommends schools take action when **radon levels are 4pCi/L (picocuries per liter) or more**. If a room is found to be above the action level of 4.0 pCi/L or higher, this should be confirmed with another test. If the second test is also at or above 4.0 pCi/L, schools should take action to reduce radon levels.

WHAT IF YOUR SCHOOL HAS HIGH RADON LEVELS?

The primary goal of the Utah Radon Program is to reduce the level of indoor radon in Utah schools to concentrations **less than the EPA's action level of 4 pCi/L**. If tests come back with high radon levels, next steps include:

- The Utah Radon Program will install a continuous radon monitor to measure real-time levels for several days.
- Meet with maintenance and the principal to decide next steps
- Increase HVAC running time to lower radon levels or install a radon mitigation system



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