



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Radon

Maryland Department of the Environment

Air and Radiation Administration

Radiological Health Program



What is Radon?

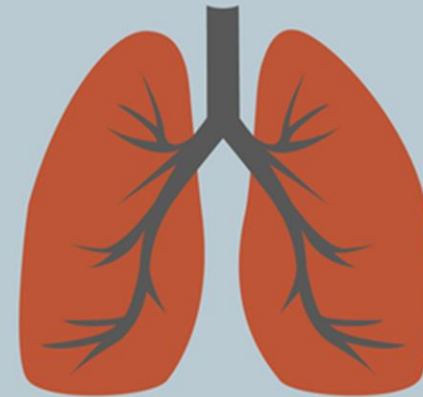
- Radon is:
 - invisible
 - odorless
 - colorless
 - radioactive gas
- Naturally occurring within the earth



Radon Background Information

- May be present in the home in high levels
- Enters the home through cracks in the basement/lower levels
- Can cause lung cancer
- Smoking cigarettes along with radon exposure puts an individual at higher risk of developing cancer

Radon is the leading preventable cause of lung cancer after smoking



Based on prior test results or new construction in your home, radon testing is recommended every five years.

Learn more: mde.maryland.gov/radon

#MDRadonAwareness #Test4Radon

Figure 1. Maryland Department of the Environment



How Radon Enters the Home

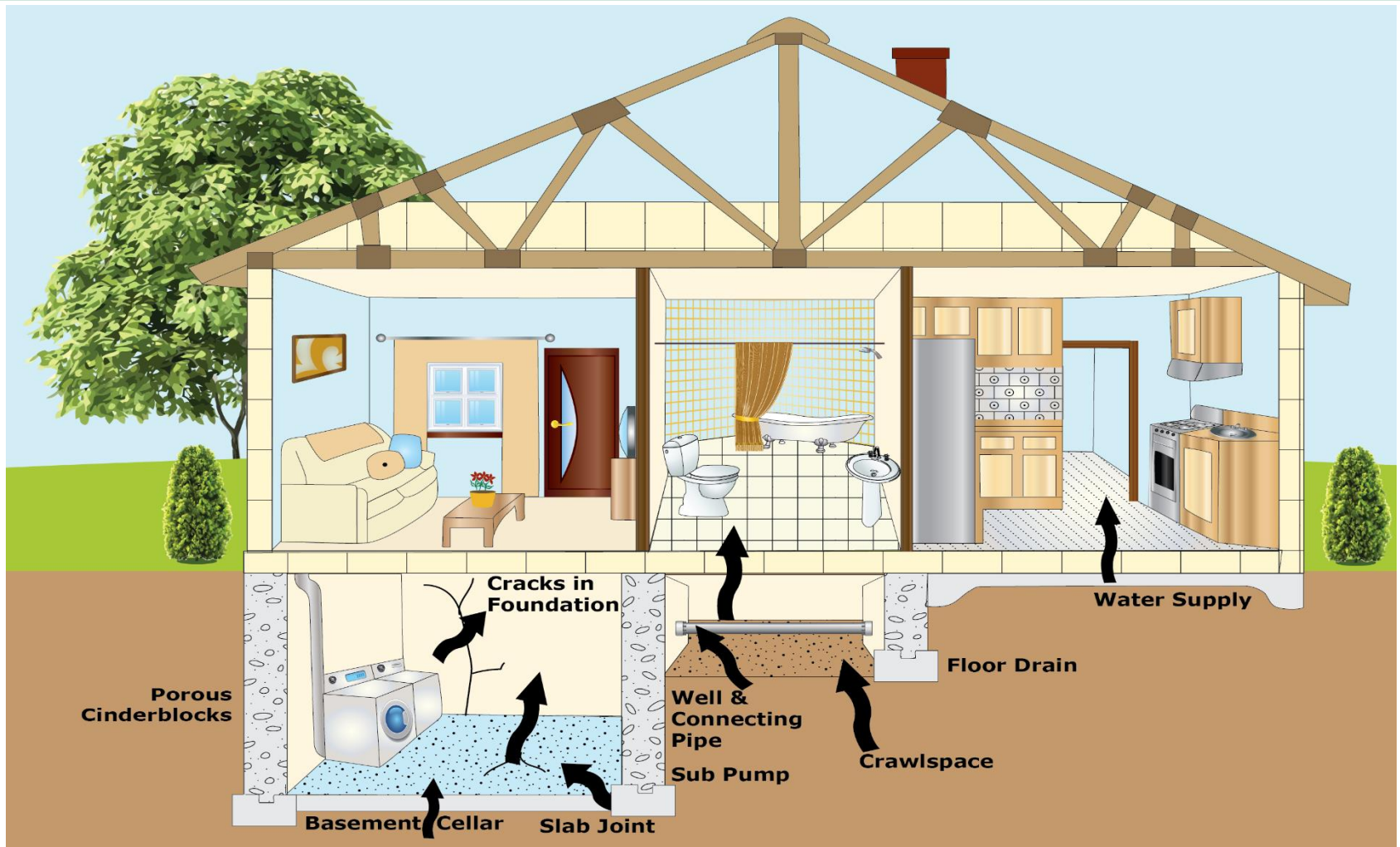


Figure 2. Paths of Entry for Radon, used with permission from the Environmental Protection Agency



Is Radon in my Home?

- There is only one way to know....do a radon test!
- \$3 test kits can be ordered from MDE <https://drhomeair.fmbetterforms.com/#/maryland-discount>
- Clear, easy, step by step instructions
- Approximately 3,500 test kits distributed w/ 30% return rate

Figure 3. Photo of the free/discounted radon measurement device available to state residents. Photo courtesy of Kiera Saleem / Cropped and set at an angle from original





EPA Map of MD Radon Zones

All homes should be tested, regardless of zone designation.

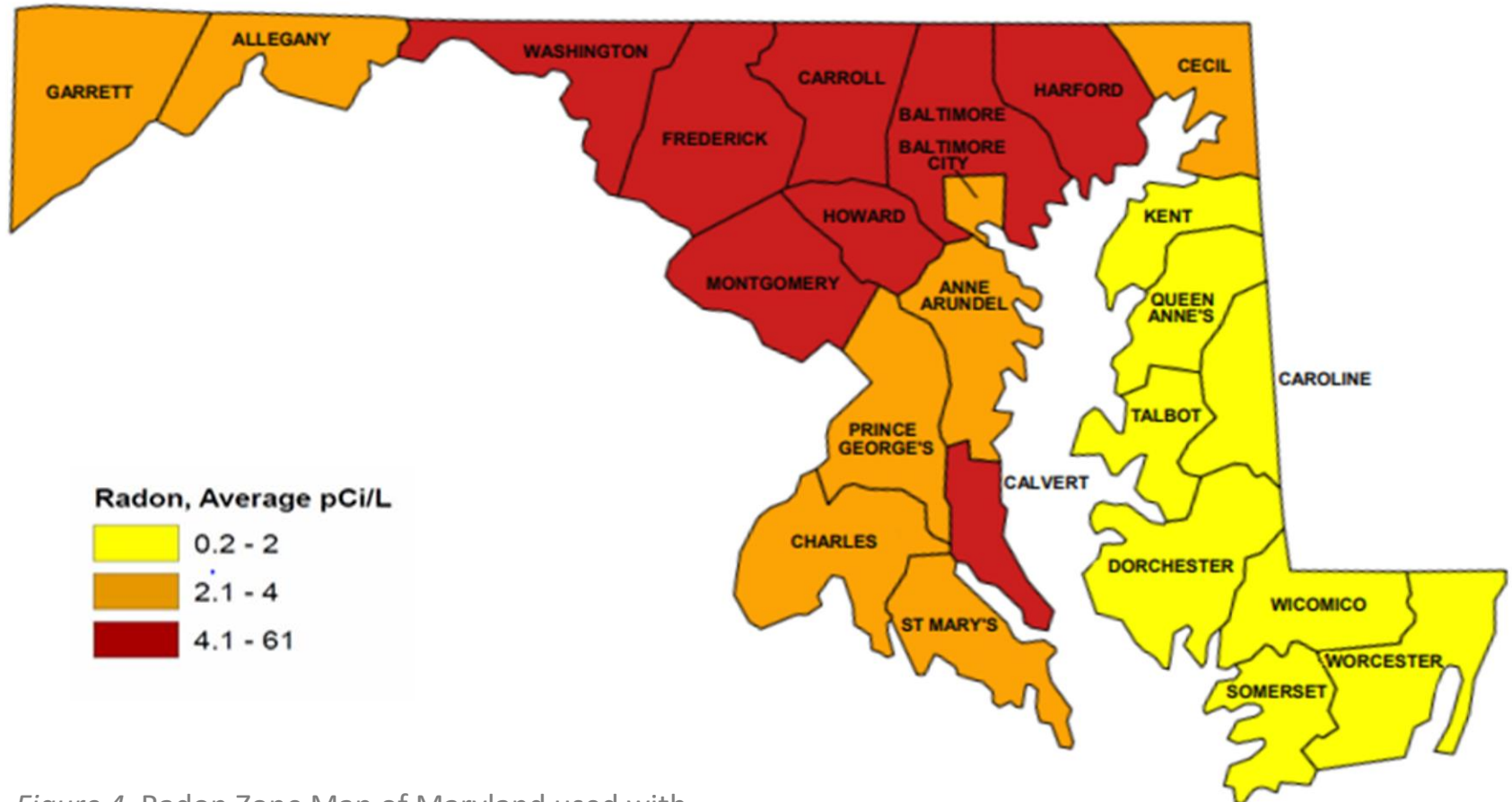


Figure 4. Radon Zone Map of Maryland used with permission of the EPA / rotated from original



Radon Test Results

Less than 2 pCi/L

- No further action needed
- Consider another test if condition of home changes

Between 2 and 4 pCi/L

- No further action needed
- Retest every 5 years

4 pCi/L or higher

- Considered an elevated/dangerous level
- Do another test to confirm the results
- Consult a radon mitigation contractor if 2nd test shows similar results or higher

What's Your Number?



A radon test result of 4 pCi/L or more requires a certified radon mitigation contractor.

Learn more: mde.maryland.gov/radon

#MDRadonAwareness #Test4Radon

Figure 5. Maryland Department of the Environment



Can I remove Radon from my home?

- Eliminating radon from your home is simple
- Contact a radon mitigation contractor at:
 - mde.maryland.gov
 - Go under the “Air Tab,” > Radiological Health > Radon
- Find a contractor who is:
 - credentialed by *The American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST)*
 - licensed by *The Maryland Home Improvement Commission (MHIC)*



Radon Mitigation

- Radon Reduction Systems help reduce high radon levels
- Systems that use fans are most effective in reducing radon
- Cost depends on size and design of your home (similar cost to common home repairs)
- A mitigation specialist can help select which system is best

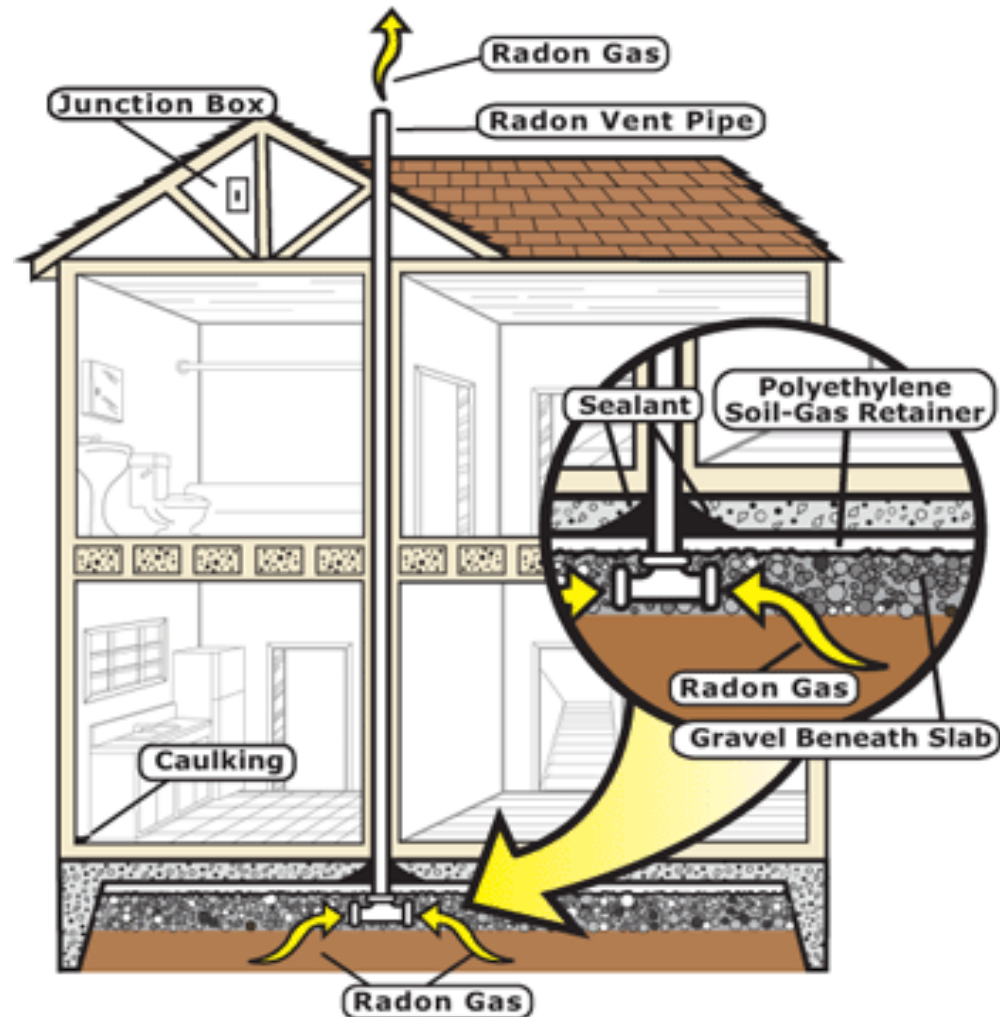


Figure 6. Overview of RRNC used with permission from the Environmental Protection Agency



Buying or Selling a Home

- MDE and MDH recommend testing a house for radon prior to buying the house
- This will be beneficial for the buyer and the seller
- Be sure to ask about radon when buying a home along with the history of testing and mitigation



Legislation

- **Montgomery County:**

-The ONLY county in the state of Maryland that requires a radon test at the point of sale during a real estate transaction

- 1.) A radon test must be performed less than a year before the settlement date
- 2.) Seller must perform test or permit the buyer to perform the test
- 3.) Both seller and buyer must receive a copy of the radon test results



Legislation continued...

- MDE exploring for similar regulations as Montgomery County to be effective in all counties

-Key Stakeholders

-Maryland Association of Counties

-Advisory Groups

-Home Builders

-Real Estate Professionals

-Policy Makers



MDE's Role

- MDE celebrates National Radon Awareness Month every January and participates in the following:
 1. Billboards
 2. TV/Newspaper/Radio ads
 3. Facebook Trivia
 4. Press Releases
 5. Proclamation from the Governor
 6. Deliver Presentations and Webinars
 7. Partner with The American Lung Association
 8. Fact Sheets/Flyers/Brochures
 9. Communicate w/ Health Departments
 10. Home & Garden Show/State Fair
 11. Legislation
 12. Free test kits!
- Most activities are ongoing, however more emphasis is put in during January!



In Conclusion

- Our goal is to protect public health by providing radon awareness
- MDE continues outreach activities
- Radon testing is encouraged to promote healthy lungs
- Mitigation is the best decision for homes with high radon levels (4 pCi/L or higher)



Thank you,

Be sure to test your home for
Radon Today!

<https://drhomeair.fmbetterforms.com/#/maryland-discount>



Citations

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- *Figure 2.* - Paths of Entry for Radon, used with permission from the Environmental Protection Agency
- *Figure 3.* - *Photo* of the free/discounted radon measurement device available to state residents. Photo courtesy of Kiera Saleem / Cropped and set at an angle from original
- *Figure 4.* - Radon Zone Map of Maryland used with permission of the EPA / rotated from original
- Figure 5. - Maryland Department of the Environment
- *Figure 6.* - Overview of RRNC used with permission from the Environmental Protection Agency
- Maryland Radon Fact Sheet