

# Illinois Radon Fact Sheet



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## Legend

-  Zone 1 Highest Potential (greater than 4 pCi/L)
-  Zone 2 Moderate Potential (from 2 to 4 pCi/L)
-  Zone 3 Low Potential (less than 2 pCi/L)

## Radon Facts

- The indoor radon average nationwide is 1.3 picocuries per liter (pCi/L).
  - The average outside air in Illinois has an average level of 0.4 pCi/L.
- Radon causes approximately 21,000 lung cancers deaths in the United States each year.
  - Approximately 1,200 deaths in Illinois each year.
- 1/3 of all housing units in Illinois are rental units.
  - Most are either single-family houses or apartments located below the third floor of a building.

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## Illinois Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (2022 - 2027)

### Lung Cancer

- In Illinois, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death and is the third most common cancer.

### Risk Factors

- The primary risk factor for lung cancer is cigarette smoking. Other tobacco products, including cigars or pipes, also increase the risk for lung cancer. Other risk factors include:
  - Exposure to radon (a naturally occurring gas from rocks and dirt that can get trapped in houses and buildings).

### Preventative and Early Detection

- Lifestyle factors that can lower a person's risk for lung cancer include
  - Testing your home for radon

## Illinois Enacted Legislation

**Radon Industry Licensing Act:** Gives the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) regulatory authority for radon licensing. Requires all individuals providing radon or radon progeny measurement, mitigation, or laboratory services in Illinois to be licensed by IEMA. IEMA established rules for licensing, found in 32 Illinois Administrative Code 422. Also creates and sets members and parameters for the Task Force on Radon – Resistant Building Codes (see Radon Resistant Construction Act).

**Radon Awareness Act:** Requires the buyer of residential real property to receive the IEMA pamphlet titled “Radon Testing Guidelines for Real Estate Transactions” and for seller, buyer, and both real estate agents to sign the Disclosure of Information on Radon Hazards form stating whether or not a known elevated radon concentration and/ or a radon mitigation system is present in the dwelling. Also requires lessor of a dwelling unit to disclose the existence of a known radon hazard to lessees.

**Radon Amendment to School Code:** Recommends that every occupied school building of a school district be tested for radon every 5 years. Test results are to be submitted to the State Board of Education, who in turn prepares a report of these results to be submitted to the General Assembly and the Governor every 2 years. Also recommends that new schools be built using radon resistant construction techniques and allows for licensure exemption for school employee that completes specific training requirements outlined in the code.

**Radon Resistant Construction Act:** Requires all new residential construction in Illinois to include passive radon resistant construction. IEMA is responsible for promulgation of rules necessary for administration and implementation of the requirements in the Act with the recommendations concerning the adoption of rules for building codes presented by the Task Force on Radon-Resistant Building Codes (32 ILAC 422.160).

**Radon Amendment to The Child Care Act of 1969:** Requires all daycares licensed with the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to test the facility for radon every 3 years and submit a copy of most recent test results with their license renewal documentation or application for initial licensure. The test result report must also be posted in the facility next to their license issued by DCFS.