



Patrick L. Casey  
President

Both the Surgeon  
General and the  
American Lung  
Association®  
recommend that all  
homes be tested  
for radon.

## RADON GAS

### What is radon gas?

Radon is a natural occurring gas that comes from deteriorating uranium in the ground. The gas filters up through the ground and enters the home through cracks or voids in the walls and floors. It is odorless and colorless, and the only way to know the levels in a home is to have it tested. According to the EPA, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and it is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. It is estimated that approximately 20,000 deaths annually in the United States are caused by radon.

### Is radon a problem in Nebraska or Iowa?

Yes. In fact over half of the homes tested in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa have elevated levels. The EPA guidelines recommend that homes with radon levels 4.0 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or higher be fixed. The average radon level in our area is approximately 5.7 pCi/L.

### Can a home with high radon levels be fixed?

Yes. All homes with high radon levels can be fixed. The most common method is a sub-slab ventilation system. This system has an active fan that depressurizes the area under the home and pipes the radon gas to the outside before it can enter the home. Radon mitigation companies as well as radon testing companies are required to be licensed in both Nebraska and Iowa. All Home Buyers Protection Company tests are performed by state licensed testers.

### How is a test performed?

Certain guidelines must be followed to obtain accurate results. A valid test must:

- Run for a minimum of 48 hours.
- Maintain "closed house" conditions, i.e., all exterior doors and windows must be kept closed during the entire test except for normal entry/exit.
- Be performed in the lowest livable level of the home.

### How much does a radon test cost?

A typical test costs between \$120 and \$150. We offer a substantial discount if the test is ordered in conjunction with a home inspection. We use state-of-the-art testing equipment to ensure accurate results. Also, we do not make any radon repairs which assures that your test will be performed properly.