Winter is the best time to test your home for Radon
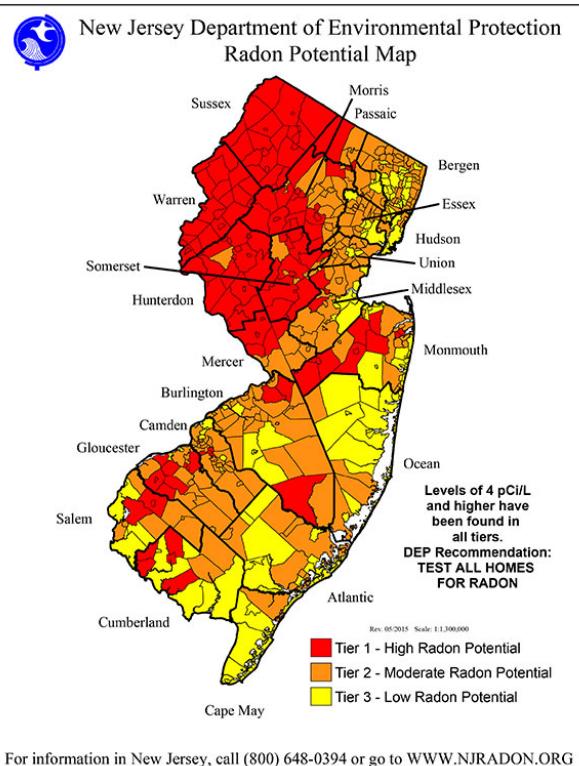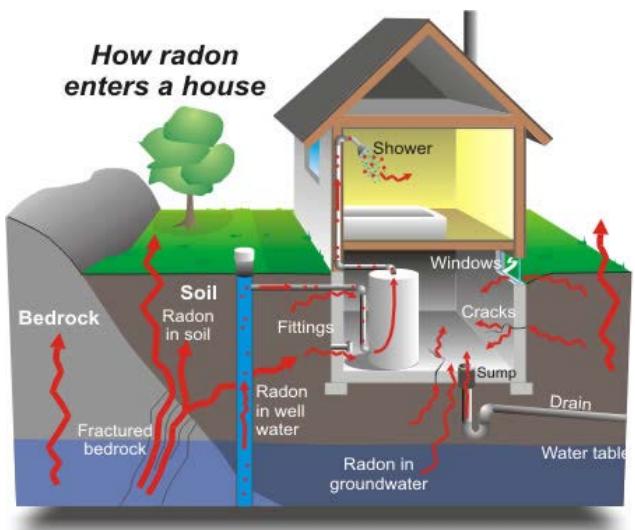
What is Radon? Radon is an odorless, radioactive gas that is naturally present in the ground and enters houses through their foundations. When inhaled, it gives off radioactive particles that can damage the cells that line the lungs. Breathing radon for extended times increases the risk of lung cancer.

Where does radon come from? The soil. Radon is produced from the natural decay of uranium that is found in nearly all soils. Uranium breaks down to radium. As radium disintegrates it turns into radioactive gas…radon. As a gas, radon moves up through the soil and into the air you breathe. Since radon is widespread and concentrations vary greatly from home to home, every home having contact with the ground should be tested.

How radon enters a house

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Radon Potential Map

Levels of 4 pCi/L and higher have been found in all tiers.
DEP Recommendation: TEST ALL HOMES FOR RADON

Tier 1 - High Radon Potential
Tier 2 - Moderate Radon Potential
Tier 3 - Low Radon Potential

For information in New Jersey, call (800) 648-0394 or go to WWW.NJRADON.ORG

How serious a problem is radon in our area? High radon exists in every state in the US. Montgomery Township and Rocky Hill Borough rank as a Tier 1 radon potential, meaning there is a high radon potential for homes in Montgomery Township and Rocky Hill Borough. Levels of radon can not only differ from town to town, but from neighbor to neighbor. You might get a reading and your neighbor might not get anything. That is why it is important to have your home tested.

If your home's radon level is elevated, the exposure could increase one's risk of lung cancer. However, a home's radon level can be substantially reduced. The cost for reducing radon in your home is $900-$1,500, and the investment could make a home easier to sell.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking and is responsible for several thousand preventable lung cancer deaths each year. Radon testing is a small investment that can pay big dividends for homeowners. Please contact the Montgomery Township Health Department for more information and access to radon test kits.

For comprehensive radon information, go to www.njradon.org or call the Montgomery Township Health Department at (908) 359-8211

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