What is radon?

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from rock and soil. It is present in almost every home and building. Being exposed long-term to high levels of radon is the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. You can’t see, taste or smell radon.

To find out the level of radon in your child care facility, home or any indoor space you have to test for it.

The Risk

1 in 20

A person exposed long-term to high radon levels has a 1 in 20 chance of developing lung cancer.

Increased Risk

1 in 3

If there is also exposure to cigarette smoke, the risk of developing lung cancer increases to 1 in 3.

Radon: What you can do
Reduce the risk of the #1 cause of lung cancer in non-smokers

1
TEST YOUR CHILD CARE FACILITY
Protect the children in your care, and yourself

2
ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO TEST
Share information about radon testing

3
USE YOUR VOICE FOR MANDATORY TESTING
Help to protect all children

4
LEARN MORE TO HELP MORE
Places to find more information

### 1. Test Your Child Care Facility

Testing your child care facility for radon is easy.

1. Purchase a long-term radon test kit, install it on the lowest occupied level of your facility during fall and winter, and leave it there for at least three months. Or, hire a certified radon professional to help you test. Tell families you are testing.

2. At the end of three months, send the radon test kit to the laboratory address included with the kit. The laboratory will send a report back to you with your radon levels.

3. Let families know if your radon levels are below or above the guideline. If your levels are above the guideline, a radon professional can offer options for what to do next.

### 2. Encourage Families to Test

Easy-to-read resources and handouts are available for download at reduceradon.ca

- **Radon Testing for Your Kids’ Sake.** A downloadable adaptable mini-poster to let families know you are testing and why.
- Sample letters to share the results of your radon test with families if they are below the guideline or above the guideline.
- **Home Safety for Your Kids’ Sake.** A three-point home-safety checklist: smoke detector, carbon monoxide detector and radon test.
- **Reduce Radon.** A simple tip card that describes what radon is, where it comes from and what can be done to protect children from this lung cancer risk.

### 3. Use Your Voice for Mandatory Testing

Encourage mandatory testing of child care programs across Canada.

Child care professionals like you have a long history of success when it comes to advocating for the well-being of children.

Ensuring radon safety for all children in Canada is another opportunity to use your voice for positive change.

### 4. Learn More to Help More

ReduceRadon.ca has more information on radon and what you can do.

- Free webinars
- Where to purchase a radon test kit
- How to find a local radon professional
- How to share your test results with client families
- Radon handouts for families
- Further reading