

# January is National Radon Action Month

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Radon is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless radioactive gas that is formed naturally from the breakdown of uranium, a natural radioactive material found in soil, rock and groundwater throughout the world and is usually found in very low concentration. Radon is released from the ground and flows through cracks in the foundation of our homes getting trapped increasing the concentrations to dangerous levels. Its particles attach to dust and can be breathed into the lungs and cause serious health problems. Radon breaks down and gives off radiation that can damage the DNA inside the body's cells. **Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer, right behind smoking.** Individual risk depends on how high the levels are and exposure time.

Nearly 1 out of every 15 homes in the United States and Canada is estimated to have elevated radon levels. This means that it can be found in all homes, new homes, old homes, well-sealed and drafty homes, homes with and without crawlspaces and basements. Even if you live in an area with fairly low environmental radon, you could still have significant levels in your home, this has been seen throughout the South Charlotte area as well.

Radon testing can vary from cannister collection to electronic devices placed inside the home. Pillar to Post prefers an electronic device that is calibrated yearly and has proved to have the most accurate findings. It is left for 48 hours and allowed to run undisturbed. The monitor will generate a report of radon levels. The EPA recommends a radon mitigation to be done for Radon levels of 4 pCi/L or higher.

It is a good idea to test your home if you are thinking of putting your home on the market, to be able to show potential buyers' proof of a radon safe home. If you are buying a home or if you are unsure if your current home has been checked, call and have this inexpensive yet priceless test performed. Your health and wellness could count on it.

There are several methods that a contractor can use to lower radon levels in your home and the right system depends on the foundation design of your home. Some techniques decreased the amount of radon entering your home while others reduce radon levels after it has entered. The EPA generally recommends methods that prevent the entry of radon. These techniques range from underground pipes and a fan to suck the gases out to sealing of cracks in the foundation to increased ventilation in the home to dilute the concentration. Simple and inexpensive fixes that can save your life. **For more information or testing in your home, call The Baerga Team at 704-999-0408.**



**Angelo Baerga**

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