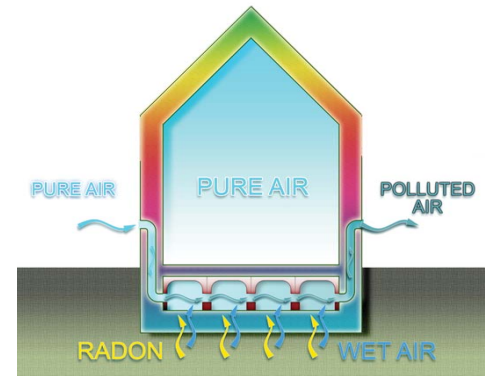




## INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ON THE DANGERS OF RADON IN HOMES

Radon is a colorless, odorless and tasteless radioactive gas formed from the radioactive decay of uranium and thorium in the ground. This gas most often enters buildings through gaps or openings in the foundation or basement floor or in drinking water from wells that contain radon.



While there are no regulations requiring testing for radon, the NYS Department of Health recommends that all existing homes be tested every 5 years and those with radon mitigation systems be tested every 2 years. They also recommend that new homes be tested prior to occupancy, especially if built in an area where radon levels are high or are built with radon resistant construction. Long term exposure to radon increases the risk of getting lung cancer.

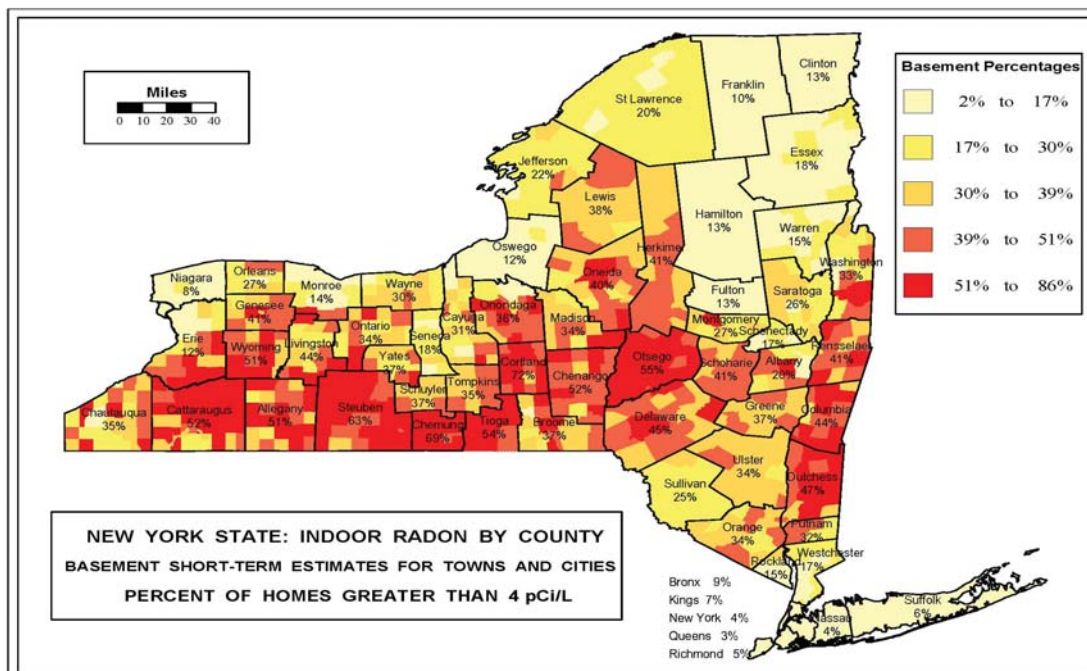


photo: NYS Department of Health [www.wadsworth.org/programs/ehs/nuclear-chem/radon](http://www.wadsworth.org/programs/ehs/nuclear-chem/radon)



# PREVENTION

## The best ways to prevent radon exposure are:

- If your home or apartment has not been tested for radon, perform a radon test in accordance with the EPA method. Radon test devices, including analysis, are available from the NYS Department of Health Center for Environmental Health for \$11.00.
- If radon levels are greater than 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/l) then a radon mitigation system should be installed and retesting performed to determine if it achieved the required radon reduction. Radon mitigation techniques vary depending on the home foundation construction type, slab on grade, crawl space or full basement. The EPA website provides guidance on the proper mitigation for each construction type.
- If radon levels are greater than 2 pCi/l but less than 4 pCi/l, EPA recommends that radon mitigation steps be taken to lower radon concentrations as low as possible.
- If radon levels are less than 2 pCi/l then no action is necessary.
- To achieve the best results, use a certified radon mitigation contractor. NYS DOH does not have a certification program but has a list of contractors certified by nationally recognized organizations.

## For more information and resources visit:

[www.cseany.org/osh](http://www.cseany.org/osh)



## Follow the CSEA Canary on:



CSEA has been winning the fight for safe and healthy working conditions for over 100 years, yet there is more to be done. Hazards old and new- from Asbestos to Zika- remain a threat to workers every day. CSEA will not back down from the fight and nothing is more important than saving lives and keeping workers free from injury. Your help is needed now more than ever. The life you save could be **YOUR OWN**.

**SAVE A LIFE- NEVER QUIT!**

