

LIVING IN A HOME WITH A RADON REDUCTION SYSTEM

Radon levels vary between areas, but high levels have been found in homes in every state, and most South Carolina counties. Mitigation can reduce radon levels up to 99%. Similar to a furnace or chimney, radon reduction systems need occasional maintenance.

Maintaining Your Mitigation System

If you have a fan powered (or active) system, look at your system's warning device on a regular basis to make sure the system is working correctly. The fan should NEVER be turned off; it must run continuously for the system to work correctly. Fans may last for five years or more before needing to be repaired or replaced.

If you have a heat recovery ventilator (HRV) to remove radon, follow the instructions for cleaning and changing the filter. The ventilator should be checked annually by a heating, ventilating and air conditioning professional to make sure the air flow remains properly balanced. HRVs used for radon control should run all the time.

Retest your home at least every two years to be sure radon levels remain low. If you have an active or HRV system, you can request a free test kit every other year from the South Carolina Radon Program website (des.sc.gov/radon).

When needed, nationally-certified radon mitigation contractors can be located through the National Radon Proficiency Program (www.nrpp.info) or the National Radon Safety Board (www.nrsb.org).

Remodeling Your Home after Radon Levels Have Been Lowered

If you make major structural changes to your home after you have had a radon reduction system installed, such as converting an unfinished basement area into living space, ask your radon contractor whether these changes could void any warranties. Disturbances to the soil and changes to heating/cooling and ventilation systems can affect radon levels.

Adding a new foundation for an addition can also affect radon levels. Ask your radon contractor what measures should be taken to ensure reduced radon levels throughout the home. After remodeling, retest in the lowest lived-in area to make sure the construction did not reduce the effectiveness of the radon reduction system.

More information about radon is available on the South Carolina Radon Program website, des.sc.gov/radon. The program can be contacted at radon@des.sc.gov or 1-800-768-0362.