



**Cortland County Environmental Health**  
60 Central Ave. Room 120 753-5035

## **Cortland County has the Highest Radon Levels in NYS !**

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***Its easy to test for Radon*** Free test kits are available. Call 753-5035

### ***What is Radon ?***

Radon is a colorless, odorless radioactive gas. Radon comes from the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water and gets into the air you breathe.

### ***What are the health effects of Radon?***

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, resulting in thousands of deaths each year in the US. It is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers

### ***Where is Radon found?***

The major source of high levels of radon in homes is the soil surrounding the house that may contain uranium, granite, shale, etc. Rock type alone does not indicate whether or not radon will be a problem.

In Cortland County, the gravel deposits in the valley areas have a very high permeability, and are classified as having a high indoor radon potential. Radon is also be found in the shale. Radon has been found in every town in Cortland County.

### ***How does radon get into my home?***

Air pressure inside your home is usually lower than pressure in the soil around your home's foundation. When radon gas is present in the soil, your house acts like a vacuum and draws radon in through cracks and other openings

The radon gas can enter a home or building through dirt floors, sump pumps, hollow block walls, cracks in the foundation floor and walls, and openings around floor drain pipes. Radon is often highly concentrated in basements, and first floors of homes.



#### **RADON GETS IN THROUGH:**

1. Cracks in solid floors
2. Construction joints
3. Cracks in walls
4. Gaps in suspended floors
5. Gaps around service pipes
6. Cavities inside walls
7. The water supply

**Rebates are still available for  
Radon-Resistant New Construction  
and Radon Remediation.**

**Call 753-5035**

***Did you know*** the average radon reading in US is 1.3 pCi/l. In Cortland County, it is 38 pCi/l on the first floor and 78 pCi/l in the basement.

**For the talented do-it-yourselfer**, the Cortland County Environmental Health Department has information on how to do a radon remediation yourself. Call 753-5035 for information sheets.