

## Talking Points for Meetings with Code Officials / Leaders about Radon Control in Homes

### Radon control in new homes is important because radon causes lung cancer.

- Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer.
- In our state, \_\_\_ people are diagnosed with lung cancer every year, resulting annually in health costs of \_\_\_ million dollars and economic losses totaling \_\_\_ million dollars. [fill in numbers from <https://aarst.org/report-card/> or other source]
- In our state, \_\_\_ % of homes tested in the past decade [or more] had high radon levels
- Radon gas rises from the ground into a building opportunistically
  - Two homes or two apartments next door to each other can have different radon levels

### Building homes with radon control is an easy way to protect people from radon exposure.

- It is much less expensive to install an effective passive radon control system during construction than to go back after a radon problem is identified and create a new system.

### Passive radon systems have four basic components:

1. Ground level gas collection (below the slab/crawlspace)
2. Vertical pipe to convey gas from collection point through the roof
3. Closed barrier between soil gas and indoor air
4. Provision to add a fan if one is needed – power source, space in attic

### The additional cost for a passive radon system at the time of construction is minimal.

- The most recently available homebuilder survey data indicate the average installation cost for a passive system in a single-family detached home was approximately \$463.
  - It will cost much less for most builders that already use some of the same techniques for moisture control/drainage, like installing 4 inches of aggregate base, vapor barriers.

### A passive system as in the radon appendix may be as effective an active one.

- Since homes are built more tightly, a correctly installed passive system has a greater probability of being sufficient.
  - It's best to wait to add the fan if post-construction radon test results > 4 pCi/L.
  - Incorrectly installed passive systems don't work initially or work with a fan later.

### Some builders are not installing radon control correctly; adding/enforcing the appendix will:

- save lives
- prevent homeowners having to pay for extra operating costs or an entirely new second system
- reduce builder liability and callbacks to builders

### Best verification of good install: third-party radon test result showing < 4 pCi/L

- Testing required by the IRC radon appendix since IRC 2021

### Code inspection opportunities

- Checklist available at <https://standards.aarst.org/RRNC-2020-1022/23/index.html#zoom=z>