

# GUIDE TO ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

## Radon Gas and Asbestos

Although it is unlikely that any home you purchase will contain substances that pose a health threat, it's important to ask the question, "Is this a safe, secure home, free from potential hazards?" In recent years, new concerns have been raised regarding the natural environment, and substances such as radon gas and asbestos have provoked new questions about how and where we build homes and manage their upkeep.

### What is Radon & Where is it Found?

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that occurs worldwide in the environment as a byproduct of the natural decay of uranium present in the earth. Hence, radon that is present in surrounding soil or in well water can be a source of radon in a home.

Entering through small spaces and openings, such as cracks in concrete, floor drains, sump pump openings, wall/floor joints in basements, and the pores in hollow block walls, it can also seep into ground water and remain entrapped there.

Therefore, if a home is supplied with water taken from a ground water source (such as a well), there is greater potential for a radon problem. The likelihood of radon in the water supply is greatly reduced for homes supplied with water from a municipal water supply.

Because testing is the only way to know whether a home has a radon problem, if you are buying a home, the *EPA recommends*:

- Having it tested for radon.
- Knowing its indoor radon levels, and asking the seller for their radon test results.
- If the home has a radon-reduction system, ask the seller for all information regarding the component
- For a new home, asking if radon-resistant construction features were used and if the home has been tested.

For further information on this environmental hazard, contact your local Radon Office.

State Radon Offices- Arizona

(602) 255- 4845