

Are we overreacting to radon?

Every once in a while, you come across an article that causes you to shake your head, making you think “why would they write that?” Sometimes it’s just a viewpoint that’s just a little misguided. In this case, it’s advice that’s downright dangerous!

We came across an advice column this weekend by a real estate broker titled “Are we overreacting to environmental hazards in your home.” In it, the author runs through a laundry list of what he considers home environmental “threats-du-jour” that make us go all crazy for no good reason. Lead paint and asbestos both had their day, but are barely mentioned anymore, he maintains. Mold is the new “here today, gone tomorrow” fad, as far as he’s concerned.

Of course, radon makes the list. He writes:

Soon to follow was radon, an odorless, invisible and toxic gas that seemed to prefer basements to attics. Further research revealed that radon gas poured forth from subterranean granite, and further that most of the Atlanta area sits on a huge vein of granite (apparently part of Stone Mountain). Oh my!

Finally, it was revealed that the best treatment for radon gas was to put a fan in the window and blow it outdoors from time to time.

What? Putting a fan in a window to blow radon out of the house... from time to time?? Did we seriously just see a real estate professional tell homebuyers to just air out their house every once in a while and you’ll be safe from radon? Where do we start?

First of all, doing this could actually increase radon levels, because of how the vacuum effect works in a home. That’s saying nothing about the heating and cooling loss you would encounter during different times of the year.



As far as asbestos goes, it’s no longer in the spotlight because it’s not allowed in the building of homes these days. With radon, it doesn’t matter how old the home is. Radon affects any home, regardless of age. Yes, new homes can have it too!

For that matter, let’s just let anyone build a home! They can rough in the electrical, heating and plumbing without any training or experience. Roofers too... and what about siding? Getting permits and having trained individuals is just a big scam, when we can just do it ourselves, right?

If you've followed us online for any amount of time, you know where we stand on how radon should be treated in a home. We don't fool around, because radon is a serious issue. We go through continual training on this stuff and we do it day in and day out.

We may not be able to answer your real estate questions, but we know radon.