

Is There Radon In My Water?

Not all drinking water contains radon. If your drinking water comes from a surface water source, such as a river, lake or reservoir, most radon that might be in the water will be released into the air before reaching your water supplier or home. Radon is only a concern if your drinking water comes from underground, such as a well that pumps water from an aquifer, though not all water from underground sources contains radon.

Water Testing For Radon

When getting your water tested for radon, make sure the proper procedures are followed in getting a sample as improper sample pulls and lack of quick turnaround time to the lab for testing can render your test results invalid and unreliable. Make sure that a Certified State Laboratory is utilized for testing the sample. Speak to your Well Water Connection, Inc. treatment professional about getting a good water sample.

Removing Radon from Well Water

If testing your private well shows that you have high levels of radon in your drinking water and you are concerned about it, there are some things you can do to improve the water. The most effective treatment you can apply is to remove radon from the water right before it enters your home. This is called point-of-entry treatment. There are two (2) types of point-of-entry devices that remove radon from water:

- Aeration devices (which bubble air through the water and exhaust the radon gas to outside the home)
- Granulated activated carbon (GAC) filters (which use activated carbon to remove the radon)

Aeration System

An Aeration system would be installed on the main water supply just after the well tank. An Aeration system consists of fiberglass or plastic tank in which water is depressurized and agitated. The best systems will use a combination of spraying the water and agitation in the tank to achieve higher reduction rates. As the water is sprayed and agitated the radon gas is released from the water and then escapes or is blown through a vent, which will terminate outside the house where it mixes with outside air and quickly reaches normal background levels. The vent should be extended above the roof if there is any chance of the radon gas reentering the home and potentially exposing the occupants to high levels of radon. Since no radon is stored in the unit there is very little opportunity for radiation to be given off by the unit itself and there are no disposal concerns.

Proper design, installation (particularly plumbing) and maintenance are critical to the long-term reliability and effectiveness of these systems.

Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)

A GAC system would also be installed on the main water supply just after the well tank. A GAC system consists of a large fiberglass tank containing a bed of granular activated carbon (GAC) that can hold onto the radon much like a sponge holds water. GAC filters tend to cost less initially than aeration devices, however, because radioactivity collects on the filter that could require special disposal methods, this method of radon removal is not recommended by Quality Pump & Supply, LLC.

