



HomeBuyer's
Preferred, Inc.

Setting the industry standard for
quality in radon protection plan services.

HealthyAIRreport

FEBRUARY 2003

Dear Colleagues and Clients,

I'd like to welcome you to the first issue of HomeBuyer's Preferred **Healthy AIRreport**. Though the quality of home air is only one of the challenges you address every day, it's an issue that can leave us all breathless if it's not up to par.

And for those of us in the relocation industry, the quality of air in a residence is moving far beyond disclosure as a concern. The saleability and liveability of our homes has a growing connection to our health, environment, quality of life and even our security in the news and in the way we evaluate an environment.

Through this monthly report, we hope to bring you some helpful resources, interesting facts, and lifesaving information; and provide a networking forum for those concerned about healthy home air issues.

Sincerely,

Phillip A. Kosanovich
President
HomeBuyer's Preferred, Inc.

Radon REVEALED

January was National Radon Action Month, which may have passed right by you unnoticed (unless you're in the habit of celebrating unusual causes or you regularly monitor the Environmental Protection Agency!). In this first part of a two-part article, we bring you the basics about radon.

It's not an issue outside, but it's a killer if it takes up residence in a home or building. And you won't hear this intruder coming, either. Radon is a colorless, odorless, invisible radioactive gas. It's always been around, in fact, it comes from a seemingly innocent source: the ground we walk on. Unfortunately, the ground we walk on is also where we build our homes. Uranium is one of the elements present in soil, rocks, and water. When it's breaking down in soil (which is a natural cycle), uranium gives off an ever-present radioactive decay. When this happens outdoors, nature takes care of dissipating the decay so that our health isn't threatened.

But when it gets trapped indoors, the concentration increases and becomes hazardous. That's why we refer to radon in terms of acceptable or unacceptable concentrations which are indicated in measures called "pCi/l" (picocuries per liter of air). The EPA recommends that radon levels in homes be reduced if the measured level is above 4pCi/l. Testing the home's pCi/l level and remedying high levels of radon is referred to as "radon mitigation."

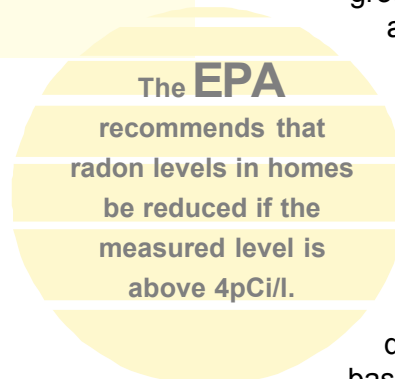
How does radon end up in the home? A typical scenario is when radon gas ascends through the ground and into the home through cracks and other holes in the foundation. The radon, which is held inside, builds up a higher-than-normal concentration and becomes toxic. And there are no structures that are radon-proof, though some areas of the country have a higher uranium content in the soil than others. Any homes are susceptible to radon — new or old, drafty or not, with or without a full basement. Radon is a pretty clever little toxin that knows how to get past closed doors and security systems. Testing is the only way to know if a home carries unsafe levels of radon, in fact, the EPA and the Surgeon General recommend testing for *all* homes.

Next month we'll talk about the specific health hazards of radon...

How many sources of indoor air pollution in a home can you name?

Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes (a partnership program of the EPA) notes these indoor pollution sources:

- Combustion by-products (such as gas, wood, or tobacco)
- Building materials and furnishings
- Products for household cleaning and maintenance, personal care, or hobbies
- People and pets
- Biological sources (such as mold and dust mites)
- Outdoor sources (such as radon and vehicle exhaust)



Resource Bulletin!

Check out www.healthyindoorair.org and click on the "Indoor Air Hazards" tab to find *Indoor Air Hazards Every Homeowner Should Know About...* which helps readers discover, investigate and take action on environmental health risks in and around the home.

You'll find FAQs which provide in-depth information and comprehensive checklists to help you evaluate risk. Topics covered are:

- Lead
- Radon
- Asbestos
- Particulates
- Formaldehyde
- Carbon Monoxide
- Secondhand Smoke
- Drinking Water
- Household Products
- Remodeling Hazards
- Combustion Pollutants
- Moisture and Biologicals
- Asthma
- Home Overview
- Building Science
- Childcare Facilities

Many states have developed their own area-specific versions of this information. To find information on a particular state, visit www.healthyindoorair.org/contacts.htm

The American Lung Association offers its "State of the Air 2002 Report" online (in sections) or in a full-report, downloadable .pdf at <http://www.lungusa.org/air2001/index.html>

Asthma statistics from...



- 17.3 million Americans had asthma in 1998, compared to 6.7 million in 1980 (a 158 percent increase). That year, 5,438 people died from asthma.
- In 2000, the estimated cost of asthma was \$12.7 billion.
- Asthma is the most common cause of missed school days, accounting for 10.1 million missed school days annually.
- Asthma accounts for approximately 3 million missed work days for adults annually.
- Working parents of children with asthma lose an estimated \$1 billion a year in productivity.

Founded in 1985, AANMA is a national nonprofit network of families whose desire is to overcome, not cope with, allergies and asthma.

FOCUS ON: LANDAUER, INC.

Have you ever noticed the badge that an x-ray technician wears? If so, you may also have seen the Landauer name on it! That badge, and others like it, are worn by a range of personnel in hospitals, medical and dental offices, university and national laboratories, nuclear power plants and other industries whose work has a proximity to radiation.

The reason that HomeBuyer's Radon Protection Plan services are so exceptional lies in the expertise of its parent company, Landauer, Inc. Since 1954, Landauer has built its company on a solid foundation of sophisticated technology, processing, analysis, and reporting.

Landauer's national and international staff of PhDs, Certified Health Physicists, technicians, trainers, and customer service professionals stand behind broad capabilities to measure the acceptable exposure of x-ray, gamma radiation and other penetrating ionizing radiations. In fact, the company is the leading worldwide provider of analytical services to determine personnel exposure to occupational and environmental radiation hazards in the workplace and home.

The x-ray technician's badge is just one example of where the Landauer name can be found in the workplace. Their work includes the manufacture of various types of radiation detection monitors, the distribution and collection of monitors to and from clients, and the analysis, reporting and recordkeeping of exposure findings.

Landauer, Inc. is a NYSE-listed company (LDR).

HPI WEBSITE WATCH!

We're excited about the prospect of our new HomeBuyer's website debuting in March of this year. Among the features it will include are radon facts and information on our HomeBuyer's Preferred™ Radon Protection plan, instructions and details about our unique test kit, facts on healthy indoor air, hints on how to control allergies, and helpful resources and links.

HealthyAIRreport

Published by HomeBuyer's Preferred, Inc.
Setting the industry standard for quality in radon protection plan services.
2 Science Road • Glenwood, IL 60425
1.800.325.5506 • 708.755.7011 fax
healthyair@homebuyerinc.com