



RADON TESTING

EPA and organizations nationwide dedicate January as National Radon Action Month to encourage the public to test their homes for radon and get radon problems fixed.

Did you know?

- *Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the US, causing over 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year!*
- *Nearly 1 in 15 homes in the U.S. has high levels of radon.*
- *The U.S. Surgeon General and EPA recommend all homes be tested for radon.*
- *Radon testing is easy and inexpensive.*
- *Homes with high radon levels can be fixed.*

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas. It is found everywhere, even in the outside air, and has been a part of our environment since the beginning of time. Indoor radon levels are normally higher than the outside air. Sumps, drains, and cracks in the floor or walls are just some of the ways radon enters your home.

Levels can vary from one house to the next. It does not matter whether your house was constructed last week or 100 years ago. Testing is the only way to know if your home has a high level of radon.

Professional testers and mitigators are required to be certified and licensed by Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Radiation Protection. A listing of these companies can be found on the State's radon web page:

http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/rp/Radon_Division/Radon_Homepage.htm

Local companies are listed under "Radon Testing and Remediation Services" in the yellow pages. You can also buy sampling kits yourself. These kits contain small monitoring devices you open and leave in your home for a few days to several months. At the end of the sampling period you will need to mail the sampler to a processor for analysis.

If testing shows that you have high levels of radon you may want to have your home mitigated. Again, check the State's listing for certified and licensed radon mitigation professionals to perform the work. After the mitigation system is installed always have your home retested to insure levels have been reduced below the recommended action level.

For additional information check the State's radon web page listed above or the EPA web page at: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/radon/>

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