

Radon Testing

FACTS:

- Radon is a cancer-causing radioactive gas that leaks into homes through openings in foundations, floors, and walls. Over time, exposure can result in increased risk of lung cancer.
- Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S., believed to be responsible for an estimated 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year. More than 600 of these deaths are projected to occur in Michigan.
- More than one in eight Michigan homes could have an elevated indoor radon level; in some counties, over 40% of homes are expected to have a problem.

Safe Families = Safe Homes Month

RESOURCES:

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Michigan Indoor Radon Program
(800) RADON GAS

US Environmental Protection Agency
National Radon Information Line
(800) SOS RADON



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- Lung cancer deaths from radon exposure are preventable.
- If you smoke and your house has high radon levels, your risk of cancer is especially high.
- Radon testing is easy and inexpensive.
- Radon levels vary from home to home and the only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test.
- "Do-it-yourself" radon test kits are available at many local health departments. Kits include the test device, postage to mail it back to an out-of-state lab, and the fees for having the device analyzed and a report sent back to you.
- You can fix a radon problem. Radon reduction systems work and they are not too costly. Some can reduce radon levels in your home by up to 99%. Even very high levels can be reduced to acceptable levels.
- If you have a radon problem, a radon mitigation contractor will recommend a system for the design of your home. There are several proven methods to reduce radon in your home, including sealing cracks and openings in foundations or crawl spaces and venting air to the outside.

SERVICES AVAILABLE:

- Radon test kits are available at Health Department offices. Property Tax Identification Number is required (to map radon levels in the region).
- Consultation from an Environmental Health Sanitarian for homes with radon levels in excess of 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/l) to determine course of action.
- Referral to local radon mitigation contractors.