Field on how to keep you safe



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

What is radon?

Radon is a colorless and odorless gas found in the soil and common throughout Minnesota. The gas can enter homes and build up to high levels.

Why is it a health concern?

Radon gas decays into small particles that are radioactive. When inhaled these small particles can damage the lung. Exposure to radon can lead to lung cancer.



What is a safe level of radon?

Any radon level poses some health risk. The best approach is to lower the radon level as much as possible. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set the action level at 4 pCi/L (picocuries of radon per liter of air). At 4 pCi/L or higher it is recommended a radon mitigation system is installed to reduce the radon level. Consider a radon mitigation system if the level is between 2 - 4 pCi/L.

What can I do?

MDH recommends testing homes and other buildings. Test at least every 2 – 5 years. If the level is high, install a radon mitigation system. A test is the only way to find out how much radon is in your home. You can test your home yourself or hire a licensed professional. The result from a properly performed test will help you decide your next steps.

Test for radon

The two basic radon tests available are a short-term and a long-term test. **Do a short-term test first.**

Your local health department or other government agency may offer test kits at reduced prices. Information on where to order radon test kits can be found at the MDH website. When buying a home consider hiring a licensed radon professional to perform the test.

Install a mitigation system-if high

If radon is high, hire a licensed radon professional to install a radon mitigation system. Radon mitigation systems use a fan to pull air from the soil and exhaust it outdoors. All systems should reduce radon below the EPA action level of 4 pCi/L. Once installed, the licensed professional will place a tag on the system. Contact MDH if you have questions or wish to request an inspection. MDH provides free inspections of recently installed radon mitigation systems.

> "Hire a licensed mitigation professional."

Find more information

mn.gov/radon - Information on radon and where to find test kits. mn.gov/radonpro - List of licensed radon professionals.

Radon Testing Guidelines — Start with a short-term test —

1st test result – Deciding the next step

Result (pCi/L)	Next Step
Less than 2	Retest every 2 to 5 years
Between 2 to 8	Do a second test, either a short or long-term test
8 or greater	Do another short-term test

2nd test result - Deciding to mitigate

Result (pCi/L) Less than 2	Action Retest every 2 to 5 years
Between 2 to 4	Consider mitigation
4 or greater	Mitigation Recommended *

★ Deciding to mitigate should be based on the long-term test result or the average of two short-term tests.

★ In real estate transactions, the decision to mitigate should be based on a continuous monitor test or the average of two short-term tests done side by side.

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