

Letter to accompany the short-term test kit:

Dear East Calhoun neighbor,

Thank you for participating in our neighborhood Radon Program*. Please follow the instructions on the test package carefully, making sure to provide all information requested. Remember to conduct the test on the lowest level of your home where you spend at least eight hours a week, avoiding high-humidity areas such as the kitchen and bathrooms, and rooms with exhaust fans.

The test should be in place for three to seven days, no longer. Send the completed test as soon as possible to Air Chek for analysis in the provided pre-paid postage packet.

Here are other things you need to know:

- Winter is an ideal time for a short-term test because the home is heated and the windows and doors are closed. Long-term tests (see below) should be conducted over three seasons, including the winter season, to get a better indication of your home's average year-around radon levels.
- You will receive test results from Air Chek by e-mail and mail.
- If your home tests less than 2 picocuries per liter (pCi/L), your level is considered safe, but you should test again within five years. (Picocuries per liter is a unit that measures levels of radon gas.)
- If your home's level is between 2 and 8 pCi/L, further testing is recommended, ideally with a long-term device over 3 to 12 months. You can order a long-term test kit for a discounted price of \$21.95 through www.mn.radon.com or by calling 1-800-AIR-CHEK (1-800-247-2435).
- If your test has a result between 4 and 8 pCi/L, and you need a quick determination, then you can retest with a short-term device. However, a long-term test provides a better measure of your home's radon level and is recommended.
- If your first test results are higher than 8 pCi/L, you should retest soon with a short-term device.
- Whether you use a long-term or short-term device for your second test, the Minnesota Department of Health recommends mitigating the radon level in your home if the follow-up result is 4 pCi/L or higher.

Radon mitigation costs will likely range from \$1,500 to \$2,000 for a single-family home, but the cost depends on the scope of the project.

ECCO is offering a grant program to help residents with mitigation expenses. If your grant application is approved, ECCO will grant Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds of **up to 25% of the cost with a maximum grant of:**

- \$500 for 1-2 unit residential buildings,
- \$1,000 for 3-4 unit residential buildings
- \$1,250 for 5+ unit residential buildings.

Grants will be available while funds last, first come, first served.

To participate in the program:

- You must complete a grant application. Grant applications are available at www.eastcalhoun.org.
- ECCO must approve your grant application before mitigation work begins. Generally grant applications will be approved within 10 days.
- You must use a certified radon mitigation professional. A list is available at www.health.state.mn.us/radon.
- Once the mitigation work is completed, the property owner will submit receipts for reimbursement.
- Work must be completed within 90 days of application approval for the homeowner to be eligible to receive the grant.
- The grant will be paid within four weeks of submission of receipts for the completed mitigation work.

For more information on general questions related to testing and mitigating radon, contact Marc Katz, Minnesota Department of Public Health, 651-201-4604.

For specific questions on ECCO's grant program, please contact Monica Smith, ECCO Coordinator at 612-821-0131 or nrp@eastcalhoun.org.

-ECCO Radon Program Task Force

*In 2014, the East Calhoun Community Organization established a community task force to explore community needs that could be appropriately funded with residual funds from our Phase II Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) projects launched in 2010. After nine months of investigation, the task force recommended, and the ECCO Board approved, investment in neighborhood radon testing and mitigation.