



Introduction

This fact sheet provides recommendations from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) on testing for radon in Ohio homes as well as information on how to use test results. The goal of radon testing is to estimate the amount of radon in a home. The results can help homeowners decide if they wish to take action to protect their health.

Why is radon important?

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that enters buildings from the surrounding soil. It is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Elevated levels of radon have been found in homes in every county in Ohio. Increased radon levels increase the risk of lung cancer in humans. Radon is the primary cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers in the United States. Radon is second only to tobacco smoking as the leading cause of lung cancer.

Should I test my home for radon?

Yes. Testing is the only way to find out how much radon is in your home. ODH estimates that one-half Ohio homes have radon levels above the Environmental Protection Agency's recommended action level of 4 picoCuries/liter (4 pCi/l) of air.

How much radon in a home is safe?

Any amount of radon carries some risk, even at or below the recommended action level. The risk of lung cancer increases with higher long-term average radon levels. Because it isn't possible to reduce radon to zero, the best approach is to lower levels as much as possible. In Ohio, there are no regulation requiring that radon be reduced, so people must decide for themselves how much radon they feel is acceptable in their home.

Where can I get a radon test kit?

The ODH conducts a licensing program including radon laboratories. It is recommended that you purchase a test kit that was manufactured by, and will be analyzed by, an Ohio licensed laboratory. Your local health department may offer test kits at reduced prices or at no cost. Contact the ODH Radon Program (1-800-523-4439) for information on where to obtain low cost radon test kits.

Where can I get more information on radon?

Copies of EPA publications and other information on radon may be obtained at:

<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/radon>

Data and information on radon in Ohio can be found at the Ohio Radon Information System Web site at:

<http://radon.utoledo.edu>

With specific questions contact:

**Ohio Department of Health
Bureau of Radiation Protection
Radon Program
246 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-0118**

1-800-523-4439 or 614-644-2727

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