

Radon Facts:



Radon is a radioactive gas that is colorless and odorless. It originates in the soil from the natural decay of uranium that exists in or below most soils.

The only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test for it.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that radon causes approximately 21,000 deaths per year nationally, most of these are preventable.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has set a recommended **radon action level of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L)**. They recommend that all Iowa homes be tested for radon and homes over 4 pCi/L be fixed.

***Iowa has the highest percentage of homes above 4 pCi/l (picocuries per liter)**

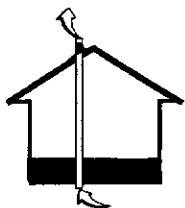
Even radon levels below 4 pCi/L pose some risk, and in many cases can be reduced.

***Radon test kits are available from some retail stores, your local Health Department, or from the Iowa AIR Coalition.**



Recommendations:

1. **Test** for radon. Each house can have different levels of radon and should be individually tested. (*test at least twice if 1st test is high*)
(Inexpensive kits are available for from many local Health Departments or from the Iowa AIR Coalition.)
2. **Fix** home if levels are high - **4 pCi/l or more** – (list of certified testing and mitigation contractors available from the Iowa Department of Public Health 1-800-383-5992) **Average cost is \$800-2,000.**



Note: *A single short-term test should not be used as a basis to mitigate your home, radon levels may fluctuate over the short term time period.*

*The average of at least 2 **short-term** radon tests, or one long-term test, or a professional continuous monitor test should be used to determine if the house needs to be fixed or not.*

For more information, contact:

- **Iowa AIR Coalition of Public Health Officials** (at Linn County Public Health)
1-800-206-7818 or (319) 892-6055.
- **Iowa Department of Public Health, 1-800-383-5992.**

What should the homeowner do?

1. Test your home.

The EPA recommends **averaging two** short-term tests, one long-term test (over 90 days duration), OR have a professional test, before corrective action is taken.

2. Fix your home if radon levels are over 4 pCi/L.

Most difficult radon problems can be corrected with a mitigation system costing between \$800 and \$2,000 by a qualified contractor (contractor list is available from the Iowa Department of Public Health). Occasionally lesser radon problems can be fixed using less expensive techniques such as sealing sump pits and other openings in the foundation.

A typical radon mitigation system is a 3"- 4" PVC pipe extending from a hole in the basement floor through the roof. A permanent fan supplies suction through the pipe drawing radon from beneath the slab and exhausting it outside above the eaves level of the house.

Iowa law requires professionals who install radon mitigation systems to be certified by the Iowa Department of Public Health. (List available at 1-800-383-5992)
Knowledgeable homeowners may take corrective action to reduce radon levels in their own homes (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pamphlets are available).

For more radon information call the Iowa Department of Public Health's toll free Radon Information Line at 1-800-383-5992 or the Iowa AIR Coalition at 1-800-206-7818.

Problems with mailing radon test kits !!!

Occasionally test kits being returned to laboratories for analysis may experience delays in the mailing system. This can result in an inadequate result and will be noted on your returned analysis sheet.

If you experience this problem and want to retest, let us know at the Iowa AIR Coalition office and we will send you another kit. (1-800-206-7818)

NOTE: Using priority mail, or similar, to return your kit to the lab costs a little more but should eliminate mailing delays.

Overnight will NOT deliver to a PO Box. IF you want to overnight your test, use the following address:

WHICH KIT WAS USED? USE CORRECT ADDRESS **IF OVERNIGHTING**

**Air Chek Inc.
1936 Butler Bridge Rd.
Fletcher, NC 28732**

**Alpha Energy Laboratories
2501 Mayes Rd., Suite 100
Carrollton, TX 75006**

Questions about radon kits: Iowa AIR Coalition – 1-800-206-7818 or (319) 892-6054