

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:

Washtenaw County Planning & Environment

734-222-3800

<http://environmentalhealth.ewashtenaw.org>

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Michigan Indoor Radon Program

800-RADON-GAS

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3310_4105_4196---.00.html

US Environmental Protection Agency

National Radon Information Line

800-SOS-RADON

<http://www.epa.gov/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 IN WASHTENAW COUNTY:

- Short-term and long-term radon test kits are available at Planning & Environment, call 734-222-3800. Property Tax Identification Number is required (to map radon levels in the region).
- Resources and a list of certified radon mitigation contractors are available to the public. Call 734-222-3800 or visit <http://environmentalhealth.ewashtenaw.org> for more information.