



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

705 N. Zeeb Rd., P.O. Box 8645
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645
Phone: (734) 222-3800
www.eWashtenaw.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: January 3, 2011

CONTACT: Angela Parsons
Environmental Educator
(734) 222-3869
parsonsa@ewashtenaw.org

WASHTENAW COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFERS HALF-PRICED RADON TEST KITS

Residents Encouraged to Test Homes in Winter Months

ANN ARBOR, Michigan, January 3, 2011 – The Washtenaw County Public Health Department’s Environmental Health Division is observing January 2011 as National Radon Action Month. To promote this event, **Washtenaw County is offering half-priced radon home test kits during the entire month of January 2011.**

Radon is a tasteless, colorless, and odorless radioactive gas. It is found in nearly all types of soil and rock. Radon can enter homes through cracks in the foundation, dirt floors, hollow-block walls, and openings around floor drains and sump pumps. Current estimates show that as many as 40% - 45% of homes in Washtenaw County have elevated levels of radon.

“Our goal is to encourage residents to test their homes for radon, and to fix the problem if they find elevated levels,” says Angela Parsons, Environmental Health Education Coordinator with Washtenaw County’s Environmental Health Division.

Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer for smokers and the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers in the United States. Research shows that radon is associated with 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States.

Although no level of radon is considered absolutely safe, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends taking action when levels are above 4.0 pCi/L inside a home. If a home is found to have elevated levels of radon, the radon can be reduced by installing a mitigation system. Depending on the home and contractor, typical radon mitigation systems cost \$800 - \$1200 in Washtenaw County.

According to Parsons, any home could have high levels of radon. “Your home could have radon even if you don’t have a basement, and even if your neighbor’s house doesn’t have radon. The only way to know for sure is to test, and the winter is the best time to test because homes are closed up tight.”

Radon home test kits can be purchased for \$5.00 at the Western County Service Center between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Service Center is located at 705 N. Zeeb Rd., just north of the I-94 interchange at Exit #169 in Scio Township. To purchase a test kit by mail, call (734) 222-3869 or email parsonsa@ewashtenaw.org.

The radon test kits will be available for purchase at the Western County Service Center after January 31st at the regular price of \$10.00. As a reminder, anyone who previously obtained a test kit from Washtenaw County is encouraged to still do the test. The test kits distributed by the County will expire after one year.

For more information, contact the Washtenaw County Environmental Health Division at (734) 222-3869 or visit www.ewashtenaw.org/radon.

###