



radon

A brief guide on how to keep your home safe from radon

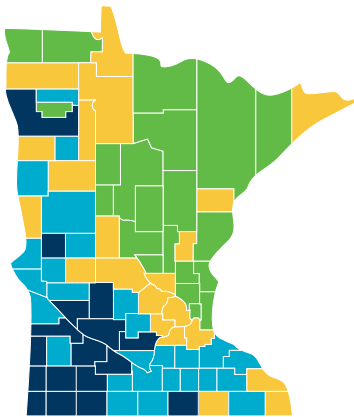


What is radon?

Radon is a colorless and odorless gas found in the soil and common throughout Minnesota. Because soil is porous, radon moves up from the soil and into the home. The gas can accumulate in the air we breathe becoming a health concern.

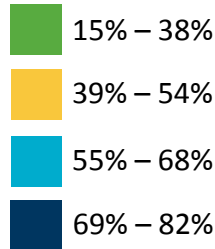
Why is it a health concern?

Radon gas decays into fine particles that are radioactive. When inhaled these fine particles can damage the lung. Exposure to radon over a long period of time can lead to lung cancer. In Minnesota, more than **two in five homes have radon levels that pose a significant health risk.**



Percent of MN Properties Tested for Radon that are ≥ 4 pCi/L

(Years 2010 – 2016)



What is a safe level of radon?

Any radon level poses some health risk. While it is not possible to reduce radon to zero, the best approach is to lower the radon level as much as possible. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set the action level at 4 pCi/L (picocuries of radon per liter of air). **It is highly recommended at 4 pCi/L or higher a radon mitigation system is installed to reduce the radon level.**

What can I do?

MDH recommends all Minnesotans test their home for radon. A radon test is the only way to find out how much radon is in your home. You can test your home yourself or hire a professional. The result from a properly performed test will help you decide if you need to reduce your home's radon levels.



Test for radon

The two basic radon tests available are a short-term and a long-term test. **Do a short-term test first.** Radon test kits are available for a discount. Your local health department or government agency may offer test kits at reduced prices. Information on where to find radon test kits can be found at the MDH website. Guidance to help you determine the type of radon test to perform and the recommended action is on the back of this guide.

Reduce radon

If the level is high then you should hire a licensed radon professional to install a radon mitigation system. Radon mitigation is any process or system used to reduce radon concentrations in buildings. Radon mitigation systems usually use a fan to continuously pull air from the soil and exhaust it outdoors through a pipe. All systems should reduce radon below the EPA action level of 4 pCi/L.



Find more information




Information on radon, where to find radon test kits, and a list of licensed radon professionals can be found on our website at: www.health.state.mn.us/radon

Radon Testing Guidelines

Initial short-term test

Result (pCi/L)	Action
0 – 1.9	Retest every 2 to 5 years
2 – 8	Perform a follow-up long-term test
Greater than 8	Perform a follow-up short-term test

Second test

Result (pCi/L)	Action
0 – 1.9 	Retest every 2 to 5 years*
2 – 3.9 	Consider a radon mitigation system
4 or greater 	Highly recommend a radon mitigation system

** If the initial test was 8 pCi/L or above, consider performing a long-term test.*

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