

Celebrate by Testing Your Home for RADON -January is National Radon Action Month-

As we turn the page into the New Year, why not test your home for Radon? Radon is known to cause cancer in humans. The problem begins when radon intrudes into your home through cracks in your basement floor or other opening where parts of your home touches the ground. The harm occurs when Radon gas or its radioactive decay products are breathed in. It is estimated that nearly ONE in EIGHT Michigan homes would be expected to have an elevated radon level, and in some counties, as many as 40 - 45 % (or more) of the homes could have problems.

Still unsure...How can Radon affect you? Many studies have been completed on the Carcinogenicity of Radon. The conclusion is that Exposure over time can increase your risk of lung cancer. Smoking is the primary cause of lung cancer, but in fact, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. *ALL HOMES SHOULD BE TESTED FOR RADON!*

However, Robert Wolfe, Registered Sanitarian from Midland County Department of Public Health said, "There are no warning symptoms like headaches, nausea, fatigue, or skin rashes, individuals tend to downplay any potential health effects and ignore the possibility that there might be a hidden danger in their homes. The only real way to know whether you are being exposed to radon vapor is to test. Any kind of home can have elevated levels – big, small, new or old. The known health effect is an increased risk of lung cancer. Everyone needs to consider testing their home."

Radon problems may be fixed. In many homes, cost is similar to common home repairs like painting or having a new furnace installed. Building healthier homes starts from the ground up. New homes constructed should have an active soil depressurization (ASD) system installed. This reduction method involves reducing the pressure under the house so radon is not being pushed in through openings in the foundation floor or walls. If you are considering building a new home, insist that your contractor install an ASD radon reduction system.

Living green is making sure that your home is healthy for your family to breathe. Radon- induced lung cancer is preventable. If you have not yet tested your home for Radon, do it now! -Tests take less than a week to complete.

FREE Radon test kits are available during the month of JANUARY only, from the Midland County Department of Public Health-Environmental Health Services Division located at 220 W. Ellsworth Street, Midland. Call the Health Dept. at (989) 832-6679 for testing questions.

More information is available by visiting Midland County Dept. of Public Health's webpage at <https://co.midland.mi.us/> or <https://www.radon.com/> or by calling the Health Dept. at (989) 832-6679