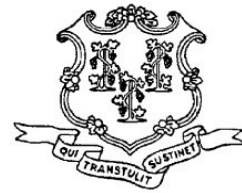


News



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DPH: Time to Test for Radon

New video shows how to test your home for radon; testing is inexpensive and easy

Hartford — The state Department of Public Health (DPH) urges Connecticut residents to test their homes for radon gas, the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. Health officials estimate that radon is responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States.

A naturally occurring radioactive gas formed from the natural decay of uranium, radon is found in rock, soil and water. While radon in outdoor air poses a relatively low threat to human health, it can enter homes from the surrounding soil and become a health hazard inside buildings.

Because you can't see or smell radon, people are often unaware that this silent killer could be in their home. Testing for radon and reducing elevated levels is important and could save your life or the lives of your loved ones.

The DPH Radon Program recommends that all Connecticut homes should be tested for radon. Testing is recommended in the winter months, when radon tends to be highest. Testing homes for radon is simple and inexpensive. [Many local health departments](#) offer radon test kits for free. Radon test kits can be purchased at many hardware stores and from the American Lung Association of New England by calling 860-289-5401 or visiting their website at: www.lungne.org

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends that homes with radon levels at 4.0 pCi/L or higher should be fixed. Homeowners can further reduce their potential lung cancer risk by fixing homes that are below 4 pCi/L. Smokers exposed to radon have a much higher risk for developing lung cancer.

Radon problems can be corrected by qualified radon contractors, with costs typically ranging between \$1,200 and \$1,500. A homeowner should hire a qualified radon mitigation (reduction) contractor to decrease airborne radon levels.

DPH produced a new [video](#), which provides step-by-step instruction on how to test your home for radon.

To learn more about radon and to obtain a list of qualified radon mitigation contractors, please visit the DPH Radon Program web site at www.ct.gov/dph/radon or call (860) 509-7367.

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