

Glastonbury Health Department Offering Free Radon Test Kits for Residents during Radon Action Month - January 2020

Glastonbury, CT - January is National Radon Action Month and the Glastonbury Health Department is urging residents to perform radon tests in their homes this month. Residents may obtain a complimentary radon testing kit during the month of January and while supplies last.

Radon, a radioactive gas formed from the decay of naturally occurring uranium, is found in rock, soil, and water. While the presence of radon in outdoor air poses a relatively low risk to human health, it can enter homes from the surrounding soil and become a health hazard when present inside a residential dwelling. As the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, it is estimated that radon is responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States.

Radon is odorless and invisible, therefore people are often unaware that this poisonous gas could be in their homes. Because it is impossible to detect, radon testing and reducing any elevated levels is essential for the health and safety of Glastonbury community members. It is recommended that all Glastonbury homes be tested for radon, and testing is simple and inexpensive to perform. Radon testing is recommended during the winter months, when radon tends to build up indoors. Glastonbury residents who have not received a free test kit in the past can have Health Department staff visit their home to place a test kit, which will be collected a few days later and submitted for testing at no charge. Test kits will be available during the month of January or while supplies last. To obtain your kit, please contact the Glastonbury Health Department at **(860) 652-7534**, or visit them in person on the third floor of Town Hall, Monday through Friday, between 8:00am and 4:30pm. Test kits can also be purchased from the American Lung Association of New England by calling **1-800-LUNG-USA** or at your local hardware store.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that homes with radon levels at or above 4.0 pCi/L be addressed. Homeowners should consider reducing their potential lung cancer risk by remediating homes with radon levels between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L. Smokers exposed to radon have a much higher risk for developing lung cancer. Elevated levels of radon can be corrected by a qualified radon contractor, with costs typically ranging between \$1,200 and \$1,500. Homeowners should hire a qualified radon mitigation (reduction) contractor to decrease airborne radon levels.

To learn more about radon and to obtain a list of qualified radon mitigation contractors, please visit the Connecticut Department of Public Health Radon Program website at www.ct.gov/dph/radon. The site also includes additional resources including a [video](#) that provides step-by-step instructions on how to test your home for radon. Questions regarding the Glastonbury testing kits should be directed to the Glastonbury Health Department at **(860) 652-7534** and an announcement will be made on the town website when testing kit supplies have been depleted.