

I'd like to test my home for radon.

Can the Health Department help me?

Yes! Available during the month of January 2020, *Glastonbury Health Department has a limited number of radon in air test kits available for no cost to residents.* Health Department staff will assist homeowners by visiting the home to place the kit in the most appropriate location, and then collect it several days later! Participants in this no-cost testing opportunity must schedule a time for Health Department staff to place and collect kits. No kits will be provided to homeowners directly.



Please call the Health Department at 860-652-7534 with questions, or to schedule an appointment for your test kit.

What is radon?

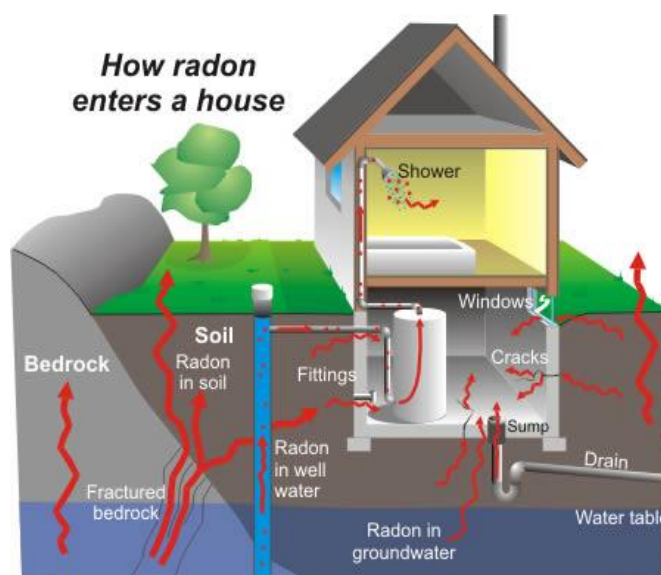
Radon is a radioactive gas. It is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and chemically inert. Because radon is a gas, it moves freely in the airspaces between rocks and in soils. It becomes a human health concern when it leaks from the underlying soil into homes and other buildings. If it builds up to high concentrations in indoor air, radon and its decay products can be inhaled and cause lung cancer. Unless you test for it, there is no way of telling how much radon is present.

The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](https://www.epa.gov/radon) (EPA) has identified smoking as the leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, and radon as the second leading cause of lung cancer. Radon substantially increases the lung-cancer risk for smokers.

Is there radon in my home?

The radon concentration in a home is dependent on the type of soil on which the home is built. Cracks, openings and various penetrations in the building foundation will provide the pathway for the radon in the soil to enter the home. The ventilation rate and air flow patterns within a house are important factors that will affect how much radon will be pulled into different areas within the house.

Old homes and new homes can have radon problems, as can homes with or without basements. Houses right next door to each other could have very different radon levels, which is why it is important for every home to be tested.



What is the "acceptable" level of radon in air?

The EPA states that any radon exposure carries some risk; no level of radon exposure is always safe. However, the EPA recommends homes be fixed if an occupant's long-term exposure will average 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or higher.

Radon levels are known to be affected by the time of day, varying as the temperature changes during the day. They are also affected by the seasons, generally rising in the winter, making winter the best time of year to test your home.

What about radon in water?

Radon in the water can enter the air in your home when you use water for household activities such as showering, washing clothes and cooking. For every 10,000 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) of radon in your water, it is estimated that 1 pCi/L is added to your radon in the air.

Ingestion of radon in water is also thought to pose a direct health risk through irradiation of sensitive cells in the gastrointestinal tract and in other organs once it is absorbed into the bloodstream. Thus, high levels of radon in drinking water could potentially produce adverse health effects in addition to lung cancer. If you are interested in testing your drinking water for radon, call your water treatment professional, or refer to the list of nearby water treatment professionals at <https://www.glastonbury-ct.gov/home/showdocument?id=27466>

How often should I test my home?

A radon test should be done when buying a home, after doing major renovations, every two years if there is a mitigation system installed or every five (5) years otherwise. Most home improvement stores and hardware stores have radon test kits for sale.

Where can I get more information?

<https://www.epa.gov/radon>

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-12/documents/2016_a_citizens_guide_to_radon.pdf

www.ct.gov/radon

www.glastonbury-ct.gov

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