

Radon Gas Proves Concern to Many Homeowners Nationwide

Radon gas. What is it? How dangerous is it? And how can you find out if it's lurking in your home? Though the problem is far more serious in some states than others, testing for it is the only way to find out if it exists in your home. Let's take a quick look at this problem and some of the options you may want to consider.

Radon is a naturally-occurring radioactive gas that is formed as uranium decay in rock and soil. Most radon escapes harmlessly into the atmosphere, where it is diluted by the outside air. Problems occur when radon seeps into houses through cracks and openings in basements and crawlspaces. Once indoors, the gas can concentrate and radiation levels rise. Long term exposure may cause lung cancer.

In a survey, in 32 states, more than one third of the homes tested showed actionable radon levels. Only three states (Louisiana, Nebraska, and Hawaii) showed no homes with actionable radon levels.

States listed as most likely to experience the problem of radon are: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming, and the Pacific Northwest, along with western and eastern Canada and Nova Scotia. Finding radon in one home doesn't mean you'll find it next door. And only testing will determine if radon is present in the home.

For less than \$10 you can conduct a quick test that will tell you whether you need to give radon another thought. If your home flunks the first test, you may want to consider having a radon testing company test for the severity and source of the problem. The cost of this kind of testing will run between \$65 and \$150.

The EPA also offers a free booklets and pamphlets to outline various explanations, suggestions, and ideas how to minimize radon and the facts surrounding radon. Here are the document #s and where to order these free publications:

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/index.html>

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html>

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/hmbyguid.html>

* Excellent Booklet for home owners

**This pamphlet spells out where to order a testing kit for \$7 and where to send it to the Health

If you have any question please feel free to call me.

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