

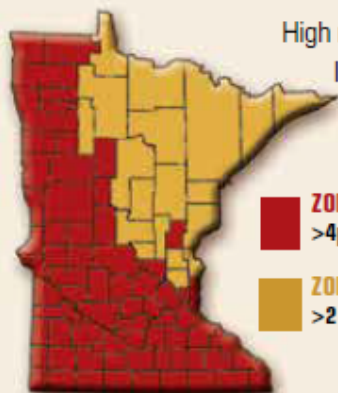


Radon

So what is it?...Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas resulting from the natural decay of uranium and is naturally occurring in Minnesota soils. Radon enters homes from the soil. Long term exposure can lead to lung cancer. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers in the United States. And if your home has high radon levels and you smoke, your risk of lung cancer is even higher. Your home can have radon whether it is old or new, well-sealed or drafty, and with or without a basement.

About 58 Americans die every day from cancer resulting from exposure to Radon.

How serious a problem is radon in Minnesota?



High radon levels exist in every state in the US. In Minnesota, **two in five homes have radon** levels that pose a significant health risk, and nearly 80% of counties are rated **High Radon zones**.

ZONE 1:
>4pCi/L

ZONE 2:
>2 <4pCi/L

Some factors that further contribute to Minnesota's high radon levels include:

- Minnesota's geology produces an ongoing supply of radon.
- Minnesota's climate affects how our homes are built and operate.

How to test ... It's easy!!

Short term Radon tests are set out for 2-7 days. They cost around \$5-\$10.

Long term Radon tests are set out for 3-12 months. They cost around \$15-\$25.

- **For short term tests**—The doors and windows should be closed for 12 hours prior to starting test. Doors and windows need to remain closed during the test. Regular use of doors is o.k.
- **For short or long terms test**—Put the test in the lowest lived in area of the home.
- Do not disturb the test once started. Follow time frame listed on test.
- After completed, mail the test as soon as possible to the address listed on the test for results.

Tests can be purchased at Countryside Public Health, online from the Minnesota Department of Health, and some hardware stores.

The results:

- If results are at or above 4.0 pCi/L, the house needs to be fixed. Contact Countryside's Environmental Health staff members for recommendations at 320-843-4546.
- If results are between 2pCi/L and 3.9 pCi/L, consider fixing the home.
- If results are less than 2 pCi/L, retest in 2-3 years.