

It Doesn't Matter What Type of Home You Live In. Everyone Should Test For Radon!



How To Use a Radon Test Kit:

Testing is easy and should only take a few minutes of your time.

Follow the instructions that come with your test kit. If you are doing a short-term test, close your windows and outside doors and keep them closed as much as possible during the test. Heating and air-conditioning system fans that re-circulate air may be operated. Do not operate fans or other machines which bring in air from outside. Fans that are part of a radon-reduction system or small exhaust fans operating only for short periods of time may run during the test. If you are doing a short-term test lasting just 2 or 3 days, be sure to close your windows and outside doors at least 12 hours **before** beginning the test, too. You should not conduct short-term tests lasting just 2 or 3 days during unusually severe storms or periods of unusually high winds.

Where to Test Inside Your Home:

The test kit should be placed in the lowest lived-in level of the home. For example, if you have an unfinished basement used only for storage or laundry, do not test that area. If you have a basement (whether finished or not) and it is used regularly as a living space (such as a family room or bedrooms), test that area. Otherwise, test the first floor of the home. The test should be placed in a room that is used regularly (like a living room, playroom, den or bedroom), but not your kitchen or bathroom. Place the kit at least 20 inches above the floor in a location where it won't be disturbed - away from drafts, high heat, high humidity, and exterior walls. Leave the kit in place for as long as the package says. Once you've finished the test, reseal the package and send it to the lab specified on the package right away for analysis. You should receive your test results within a few weeks.

If you have any questions about home radon testing, contact Rice County Public Health at (507) 332-6111.

See back of this sheet for helpful information on radon test results.

What do my radon test results mean?

In Minnesota, it is up to the homeowner to decide what amount of radon is acceptable for their home. To help with this decision, the table below provides recommendations based on radon test results and the type of test used. These differ slightly from those of the EPA because they account for the weather extremes and the amount of radon typically found in this state. The advice also clarifies some common mistakes in how people interpret the EPA guidance. These suggestions assume that the radon tests were conducted properly.

Test Type	Result (pCi/L)	Recommended Action
Initial Short-term Test	Less than 2	Consider performing a long-term test.
	2 to 10	Perform long-term test.
	Greater than 10	Perform a second short-term test.
Second Short-term Test	Less than 8	Perform long-term test.
	8 or greater	Mitigation strongly recommended if first test result was also 4 pCi/L or greater.
Long-term Test	Less than 2	Retest if major changes made to the home.
	2 to less than 4	Consider performing mitigation.
	4 or greater	Mitigation strongly recommended.

If you would like to re-test your home, contact Rice County Public Health at (507) 332-6111 for test kit availability.

Do I ever need to retest my home?

If you have had your home fixed for radon, you should retest to ensure the system is working properly. Also, retest your home if you make any major changes to the home, such as building an addition, finishing a basement, buying a new heating system or adding central air conditioning.

Sources: Minnesota Department of Health and Environmental Protection Agency Websites, 2008.

