



January is National Radon Action Month

By U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7

Protect Your Home. Protect Your Health.

EPA has designated January as National Radon Action Month. The aim of National Radon Action Month is to increase the public's awareness of radon, promote radon testing and mitigation, and advance the use of radon-resistant new construction practices.

What is radon?

Radon is an invisible, odorless and tasteless gas, with no immediate health symptoms, that comes from the breakdown of uranium inside the earth. Simple test kits can reveal the amount of radon in any building. Buildings with high levels can be fixed with simple and affordable venting techniques. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/radon.

Healthy Homes

EPA also emphasizes the effects radon can have on children as part of the *Healthy Homes Community Initiative*. Children are more sensitive to radon because their lungs are smaller and their respiratory rates are twice as high. By the age of 10, a child receives twice the lung dose of an adult who's been exposed to radon for the same length of time. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Breathing in high levels of radon can lead to lung cancer yet it is easy to avoid. Radon can be detected with a simple test and fixed through well-established venting techniques.

You can fix a radon problem

The cost of making repairs to reduce the radon level depends on several factors, including how your home was built. Most homes can be fixed for about the same cost as other common home repairs, like painting or having a new hot water heater installed. Call your state radon office to locate radon mitigators in your area if you find an elevated radon level in your home.

Radon-resistant new construction practices

By building radon-resistant new homes, builders and contractors provide a public health service — helping to reduce buyers' risk of lung cancer from exposure to radon in indoor air. Using common materials and straightforward techniques, builders can construct new homes that are resistant to

How Healthy Is Your Home?



January is National Radon Action Awareness Month

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Test Your Home

EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend that all homes in the U.S. be tested for radon. Testing is easy and inexpensive.

To obtain an easy-to-use radon test kit you can contact your state radon program:

Kansas: 1-800-693-5343 or www.kansasradonprogram.org

Missouri: 1-866-628-9891 or www.dhss.mo.gov/Radon

For more information about obtaining test kits from a radon testing company or laboratory in your area, contact your state radon program.

Spread the Word

Spend time during National Radon Action Month encouraging others to learn about radon and test their homes.



Basic information for consumers:

Citizen's Guide to Radon

www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html

Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction

www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/consguid.html

EPA Region 7 — 1-800-223-0425

Healthy Homes Community Initiative

www.epa.gov/region07/citizens/healthy_homes.htm

To inquire about managing your child's asthma, and for more information on safe and healthy homes and how to receive a healthy homes assessment, contact Children's Mercy Hospital at 816-855-1895.

To inquire about getting your child tested for lead poisoning and for more information on resources to rid your home of lead hazards, contact the Kansas City, Missouri Health Department at 816-513-6048.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

radon entry. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/radon/rrnc/index.

Radon presents a serious health risk, but it can be controlled easily and cost-

effectively. Take action today. Encourage your friends and family members to do the same!