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Protect Your Family from Radon

Take Action- Radon Testing is Easy

EAU CLAIRE, Wis – January 6, 2021 – Over 2,900 Wisconsin residents die from lung cancer each year, with 488 calculated to be radon-related lung cancer deaths (WI Department of Health Services). Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States (WI Department of Health Services). However, lung cancer caused by radon can be prevented. **Find out if you are at risk by testing your home for radon!**

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from the soil beneath and around some of our homes. About 1 out of 10 homes in Wisconsin have radon levels above the US Environmental Protection Agency guideline of 4 pCi/L (picocuries per liter). Having a home with levels above 4pCi/L increases your risk of developing lung cancer.

Radon has no smell, taste or color, and therefore, it is impossible to detect with the human senses. It can be easily measured with a simple and inexpensive test that a homeowner can do themselves.

"There is no way to predict the level of radon in your home. The only way to know is to test. Testing is easy to do and test kits are inexpensive." says Elizabeth Paulson, Environmental Health Specialist at the Eau Claire City-County Health Department.

Protect Your Family from Radon Radon is in the ground naturally. But sometimes it gets into homes through cracks in the floors or walls.

Take action—test your home for radon!

- Radon Test kits can be purchased for \$10 from the Eau Claire City-County Health Department
 (located on the ground floor of the Eau Claire County Courthouse at 720 Second Avenue).
 A coupon of \$2 off a short- term radon test is available on our website
 (radon.echealthdepartment.org) and available in office for the month of January.
 - If you purchase a radon test kit elsewhere, make sure you buy a test kit approved by the U.S.E.P.A.
- If elevated radon levels are found in a home, the home can be fixed at a reasonable cost. A trained and certified contractor should do all the contracting work.
 - A list of local certified measurement and mitigation contractors can be found at www.lowradon.org.
- For more information on radon and radon testing, please contact the West Central Regional Radon Information Center at the Eau Claire City-County Health Department at 715-839-4718 or visit our website at <u>radon.echealthdepartment.org</u>.

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