Working with a Registered Radon Reduction Expert — a registered contractor or 'mitigator'

Radon Tipsheet #8

Use a registered Maine radon contractor to install a radon treatment system.

Reducing radon in your home or well water is a job for an expert. A Maine contractor who installs radon treatment systems is also called a 'mitigator' and must be registered. A registered contractor has had training, passed an exam, and performs work according to State standards. A list of registered contractors is on the back of this tipsheet. Find the most current list:

- online at: **www.MaineRadiationControl.org**
- by calling tollfree in Maine: **1-800-232-0842.**

Be aware that some contractors are registered to treat radon in air, some to treat radon in water, and some to treat both.

Before you invest, learn how different contractors might solve your problem.

Get estimates from several contractors. This may cost you nothing. Ask to see:

- Their Maine Registration Card with number and expiration date
- References from past customers
- Proof of liability or other applicable insurance

Before giving you an estimate, a contractor should:

- Review your radon test results to make sure tests were done right.
- Inspect your home, checking on its size and type of foundation.
- Tell you if further tests are needed before deciding on an air treatment system. These 'diagnostic' tests may involve using chemical smoke to check the source and direction of air movement (and thus, how radon travels). Another test checks how easily air can move in the soil under your foundation. Ask about charges for such tests.

Be sure you understand all proposed work, guarantees, and costs.

Before you agree to a certain treatment system and sign a contract, be sure you know:

- The full scope of work: What will be done, how long it will take, how the system will work, what's required to maintain the system, and all costs.
- What guarantees come with the system: Is the system guaranteed to achieve a certain level of radon? If so, for how long? Is the guarantee transferable if you sell your home?
- How you will know if the system malfunctions: The contractor must install a device that lets you know if your radon treatment system isn't working right. Discuss where the device will be placed and how it works.
- After you install a system, test it every 2 years.

Protect your family. Learn. Test. Treat if needed.

- Check this website: **www.MaineRadiationControl.org**
- For advice: **1-800-232-0842 • radon.dhhs@maine.gov • TTY: 800-606-0215**

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