

Treatment Systems: Reduce Radon Levels in Your Well Water

Radon Tipsheet #7



May 2019



High levels of radon in well water are a serious danger to family health.

High levels of radon gas occur naturally in Maine soil and water. Radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer. If you have tested and your **well water number** is:

- **10,000 or higher**
You need a treatment system (list on back).
- **Between 4,000 and 10,000** – maybe treat
Call us to discuss: 1-800-232-0842.
- **4,000 or lower**
Retest in 3 to 5 years.

If you have tested just your well water, test your air too before making treatment decisions.

The major danger from radon in water is when the water is used—for bathing, washing laundry, or even flushing toilets. The radon escapes from the water into the air which is breathed by all family members. There is also some risk from drinking the water, but it is less than the risk from the radon added to the air.

Well water treatment systems lower radon levels to safe limits.

Two water treatment systems can protect your family from the water they drink as well as the water they use—charcoal filter and aeration (say: air A shun).

- **GAC - Granular Activated Carbon:** This is a big charcoal filter that treats all the water in your house. A GAC works best with moderate, not high levels of radon. Cost: about \$1,500.
- **Aeration system:** An aeration system uses a fan to reduce radon in water between 85% and 99%. This system mixes your water with air inside a plastic tank and then vents the air and radon outdoors, away from the house. These systems work best for higher concentrations. Cost: about \$5,000.

Talk with a registered water treatment contractor about the system that is best matched to radon levels and family needs. And, just to repeat, be sure you have results from a radon air test before making any treatment decisions.

If you plan to install a treatment system, read Tipsheet #8 *Working with a Registered Radon Reduction Expert*.

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

