

Test Your Home for Radon

Radon Tipsheet #2



Testing for radon in air and well water—quick, easy, and critical to family health

Radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer. Studies in thousands of homes around the world show radon causes lung cancer at levels like those found in Maine.

High levels of radon gas occur naturally in Maine soil and water, and can move up into a house from the ground. The house then traps the radon in the air inside. Radon gas can also dissolve into well water, which is then released into the air when you use the water. Simple air and well water tests can show whether home radon levels meet state and national safety guidelines.

Any home can have a radon problem. Testing is the only way to find a problem.

It doesn't matter if your house is old or new or where it's located. The only way to know if your house has a problem is to test. If you have a well, you need to test your water along with your air. If you are buying or selling a house and testing for radon, state law requires you to use a Maine registered radon tester. Go to the website listed at the bottom of the page to find a registered tester.

Testing Your Air: You can test for radon in home air using a simple test kit purchased from a registered testing lab for about \$60 or less. All it takes is a phone call to one of the labs listed on the back. Most radon air test kits are small bottles or canisters that are opened for 2 to 7 days, and then resealed and sent back to the lab. To get accurate results, follow the instructions that come with the test. Key instructions for all the kits include:

- Whenever possible, test when your heat is on (during cool months).
- Close all doors and windows for 12 hours before starting the test.
- Keep windows and doors closed during the test, except for normal entry and exit.
- Place the bottles or canisters in the lowest livable area of the house – usually the basement.
- After the test time is over, mail the bottles/canisters back to the lab in the envelope provided by the lab.

Testing Your Well Water: Only well water, not town or public water, needs testing. Some wells have high levels of radon. The main danger comes from breathing in the radon when water is used. You can test for radon in well water using a simple test kit purchased from a Maine registered water testing lab, for about \$40 or less. Follow the instructions that come with it. Purchase a kit by using the list on the back.

Treatment systems work to lower radon levels in air and water.

Radon problems can be fixed. Once you test and know your radon numbers, you can plan next steps. Current methods make it possible to get levels in most houses:

- air levels: around 2 pCi/L or below
- well water levels: 4,000 pCi/L or below.

Read pCi/L as "picocuries per liter" — but just the number matters.

If both air and well water tests are done, the results must be considered together to decide on the best and most cost effective fix.

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

- Check this website: www.MaineRadiationControl.org
- Call for advice: 1-800-232-0842 • TTY: 800-606-0215



John E. Baldacci, Governor

Maine Center for Disease
Control and Prevention
An Office of the
Department of Health and Human Services

Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner

October 2008

LABS REGISTERED TO PROVIDE RADON AIR OR WATER TESTING

(Ordered by Registration renewal date- top left renewed first, bottom right renewed last)

Maine and New England

Radon Check
Scarborough, Maine
207-885-0851 or 800-675-0851
Maine Radon ID # ME05300C
Air & Water testing

Radon Diagnostic Laboratory
Auburn, Maine
207-784-5354
Maine Radon ID # ME02000C
Air & Water testing

Northeast Laboratory Services
Waterville, Maine
207-873-7711 or 800-244-8378
Maine Radon ID # ME00300C
Air & Water testing

Maine Health & Environmental
Testing Laboratory
Augusta, Maine
207-287-2727
Air & Water testing

Aqua Maine
West Rockport, Maine
207-236-8428
Maine Radon ID # ME22200C
Water testing

AccuStar Labs
Medway, Mass.
508-533-8812
Maine Radon ID # ME05300C
Air & Water testing

Nelson Analytical
Manchester, NH
603-622-0200
Maine Radon ID # ME17500C
Air & Water testing

Seacoast Analytical Services
Durham, NH
603-868-1457
Maine Radon ID # ME07800C
Air & Water testing

Outside New England

RaData, Inc.
Flanders, NJ
973-927-7303
Maine Radon ID # ME08000C
Air & Water testing

Alpha Energy Laboratories
Carrollton, TX
972-242-7750 ext. 51
Maine Radon ID # ME04400C
Air testing

Air Check
Fletcher, NC
1-828-684-0893
Maine Radon ID # ME00700C
Air testing

RSSI
Morton Grove, IL
1-847-965-1999
Maine Radon ID # ME10100C
Air testing (long term only)

RTCA
Elmsford, NY
1-800-675-0851
Maine Radon ID # ME02400C
Air & Water testing

EMSL Analytical, Inc.
Westmont, NJ
1-800-220-3675
Maine Radon ID # ME20200C
Air & Water testing

Pro-Lab
Weston, FL
1-800-427-0550
Maine Radon ID # ME17000C
Air & Water testing

Landauer, Inc.
Glenwood, IL
708-755-7000
Maine Radon ID # ME01300C
Air testing (long term only)

Radalink, Inc.
Atlanta, GA
1-800-295-4655
Maine Radon ID# ME04900C
Air testing

U.S. Inspect
Chantilly, VA
703-293-1511
Air testing

Updated 02/22/10
Registrations Valid to 10/1/10
Some laboratories may have registered since this update. For a current list see www.MaineRadiationControl.org
Please call **1-800-232-0842** or email radon.dhhs@maine.gov to let us know if you have a problem contacting a company listed here.

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Email questions to radon.dhhs@maine.gov

