



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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Coloradans Urged to Test for Radon Gas

DENVER – January is Radon Action Month, a perfect time for people to test their homes for radon, a radioactive gas responsible for hundreds of Colorado cancer deaths each year. The colorless, odorless, tasteless gas enters homes through cracks in the floor or spaces around utility pipes, and accumulates unless properly vented. Long-term radon exposure is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers.

“Testing is easy. It’s the only way to know for certain if your health is at risk, and to make your home safe to prevent harm to you and your loved ones,” said Chrystine Kelley, Radon Program manager at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division. “One reason January is ideal for testing your home for radon is because short-term tests require closed windows and doors.”

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment provides coupons for reduced-cost radon test kits at www.coloradoradon.info. The website also lists contractors certified by the National Environmental Health Association to install systems to remove or mitigate radon. Colorado residents also can call the state’s Radon Hotline at 1-800-846-3986 or check with their local health department, county extension office or public health nurse for radon information.

“The Environmental Protection Agency recommends installing a mitigation system if your home tests above four picocuries per liter of air,” explained Kelley. “Qualified contractors can seal cracks and install ventilation systems to prevent radon from collecting in your home. Merely opening a window will not remove radon from the home.”

Radon comes from the radioactive decay of uranium, which occurs naturally in soil. Due to Colorado’s geologic makeup, 52 of the state’s 64 counties are at high risk for radon. The gas moves unpredictably through soil, so it’s possible for radon to collect in one home, but not in a

home next door.