



WASHINGTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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WINTER IS THE BEST TIME TO TEST YOUR HOME FOR RADON

All homes should be tested for radon and because windows are closed in the winter time, winter is the perfect time to test.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, causing an estimated 20,000 lung cancer deaths a year in the United States. Cigarette smoking is the number one cause while secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of lung cancer. Stated in another way; **radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers**. Most people are surprised to find out that radon causes more lung cancer than secondhand smoke. You should make every effort to avoid the smoke from cigarettes and make an equal effort to be sure radon gas is not a threat to you and your family in your home. Lung cancer caused by these environmental exposures can start to show up as early as age 40 (sometimes earlier). At any age, lung cancer is a life threatening diagnosis.

Washington County residents can pick up a free radon test kit (one per household) at the Washington County Health Department, 333 E Washington St., Suite 1100, West Bend. The office is open daily from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday-Friday. We will no longer be mailing out the kits. The free kits are available only if they are picked up at the office. The only cost to obtaining a radon result for your home is the price of the 5 first-class postage stamps required to mail the kit to the lab for analysis. Analysis and reporting of results is done at no additional cost to the consumer.

A list of Certified Radon Mitigators can be found at www.lowradon.org/. See the Washington County Health Department website, www.co.washington.wi.us/chn or call 262-365-5878 to talk to an Environmental Health Specialist if you have additional questions about radon.