

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **All Oregon residents are urged to test their homes for radon, a leading cause of lung cancer in the United States**

***Testing is inexpensive, easy and can help prevent serious illness***

Radon is odorless, tasteless and invisible – and it could be in your home in dangerous levels.

As part of National Radon Action Month, all Oregon residents are urged to test their homes for radon, one of the leading causes of lung cancer in the United States.

“Radon does exist throughout Oregon,” said radon coordinator Brett Sherry, Oregon Public Health Division. “It can be a silent killer in our homes. We hope that everyone would test their homes to protect themselves and their families.”

Testing homes for radon is simple and inexpensive. Radon test kits can be purchased at local hardware and home improvement stores or directly from radon testing companies. Many test kits are priced between \$10 and \$25. Radon problems can be fixed by qualified contractors for a cost similar to that of many common home repairs such as painting or having a new water heater installed, anywhere from \$800 to about \$2,500.

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that comes up from the ground. It is dispersed in the outdoor air, but it can build up to dangerous levels when trapped in buildings. Scientists have long been concerned about the health risk of radon, but never before has there been such overwhelming proof that exposure to elevated levels of radon causes lung cancer in humans. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that radon is responsible for more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. after smoking and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

(more)

Radon levels vary throughout Oregon depending on the underlying geology. For radon levels in your neighborhood visit the Oregon Public Health [Radon Program website](#) to look up radon test results by county or ZIP code.

“Testing also helps us know what areas may have more radon than others,” Sherry said. “However, it is possible for one home in a neighborhood to test high and neighboring homes to test low. You never know unless you test.”

The test results are sent to the Oregon Public Health Radon Program by the testing companies but do not include exact addresses or homeowner names, just ZIP codes. Anyone needing more information after testing their home can contact the Radon Program.

The Oregon Public Health Radon Program is working with EPA in a nationwide campaign to educate Americans about the dangers of radon exposure. For more information on radon, radon testing and mitigation, radon-resistant new construction, or to order a test kit online please call the Oregon Public Health Radon Program at 971-673-0440 or visit [www.healthoregon.org/radon](http://www.healthoregon.org/radon) or visit EPA’s website at [www.epa.gov/radon/nram](http://www.epa.gov/radon/nram).

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