

News release

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Oregonians are urged to test their home for radon, a leading cause of lung cancer in the United States

Testing is easy, inexpensive and can save a life

You can't see it, smell it or taste it, but radon could be in your home at dangerous levels. The Oregon Radon Program is working with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in a nationwide campaign to educate people about the dangers of radon. January is National Radon Action Month.

"It's estimated that radon causes over 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year in the U.S. The only way to know if your home has high radon levels is to test," said Brett Sherry, radon coordinator for Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division.

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that comes up from the ground. It can get drawn into our homes, where it can build up to unsafe levels. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking, and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

If you find that your home has high radon levels, it can be fixed. Qualified radon mitigation professionals can effectively reduce radon levels in homes.

In 2010, the Oregon Legislature passed new legislation on radon. These laws created building codes that address radon in new residential structures and public buildings in Baker, Clackamas, Hood River, Multnomah, Polk, Washington and Yamhill counties. The laws also require radon information to be made available to new home buyers by the Oregon Real Estate Agency.

(more)

Testing homes for radon is simple and inexpensive. Radon test kits can be purchased at local hardware and home improvement stores or online. Many test kits cost between \$10 and \$25. The American Lung Association in Oregon (ALAO) is offering test kits for \$14, which includes the cost of shipping, handling and analysis. You can find a link to ALAO on Oregon Public Health's [radon website](#).

For more information about radon, radon testing and mitigation, radon-resistant new construction, or to order a test kit online please call the Oregon Radon Program at 971-673-0440 or visit Oregon Public Health's [radon website](#) or [EPA's website](#).

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