

BETter Living ...

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Kansas Radon Action Month

Have you heard of Radon? Radon is the leading cause of cancer death for non-smokers in the United States and the second overall cause of lung cancer death behind tobacco smoking.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), approximately 1 in 4 houses in Kansas will test at or above the radon action level of 4.0 picocuries per liter. All homes should be tested for radon gas.

Radon is a gas that comes from the natural radioactive decay of radium and uranium found in the soil beneath the house. The levels of radon vary throughout the county and state. The gas comes into your house through openings and cracks in your basement or the lowest part of your house, where there is direct contact with soil.

To test your house for radon, you will get a testing kit. The testing may be done for 3-7 days. Once the test is complete, the test is mailed to the laboratory and then results will be mailed. Testing during the winter works well, as the house must be kept closed, without any doors or windows open. The kits may be purchased at the Wabaunsee County Extension Office located at 215 Kansas Ave in Alma. You can call the Extension Office at: (785) 765-3821. The cost is: \$5.50.

If the results come back and your level in your house is higher than 4.0 picocuries per liter, then the house should have a radon mitigation system installed. The system is permanent and will reduce the amount of radon under the foundation. The mitigation systems are reliable in reducing the radon gas that seeps into the living space of the home.

For more information, call the Kansas Radon Hotline (800) 693-5343 or visit www.kansasradonprogram.org.

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