

DEP Reminds Pennsylvania Residents to Test Homes for Radon

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is encouraging Pennsylvanians to test their homes for radon during Radon Action Month, bringing public awareness to a very serious health hazard.

“Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer after smoking in the United States, and is a serious concern within the Commonwealth, but it is also very easy to protect yourself and your family from this naturally occurring gas,” said DEP Secretary Jessica Shirley. “January is a great month to pick up a test kit from the local hardware store, put it on the lowest floor of your house, and find out if your home has radon. Radon test kits are also at many home improvement and hardware stores and typically cost \$20-\$30.

Even homes that have mitigation systems installed should test their homes every two years.

Permanent radon mitigation systems typically cost between \$800 and \$1,200 and require minimal maintenance. A list of state-certified radon contractors, labs, and testers is available on DEP's website. The public is encouraged to call DEP's Radon Division at 717-783-3594, or the Radon Hotline at 800-237-2366, for help with interpreting their test results and what follow-up action may be necessary.