

The  
10 Steps  
RADON  
Action  
Plan

Iowa Department  
of Public Health



*Promoting and protecting  
the health of Iowans*

Radon is a radioactive gas which occurs naturally. Radon gases enter homes through openings in basement walls, crawl spaces and floors. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, and the results of an EPA study indicate that the state has relatively high levels of radon. So, it is a good idea to check radon levels in your home and, depending on the results, plan a course of action.

**1 DON'T PANIC.** It can be dealt with over a period of time without great expense.

**2 TEST IN WINTER.** The best time to test radon levels is during the heating season, although you can test during any season.

**3 ARRANGE FOR RADON DETECTION.** When testing for the purpose of buying real estate, contact a certified radon measurement specialist for performing this test. Call 1-800-383-5992 for a list of Iowa radon measurement specialists. For testing your own home, you can purchase an approved radon detector from a retail store, an Iowa certified radon testing lab, a county or city health department, or call the Iowa Air Coalition at 1-800-206-7818.

**4 FIRST CONDUCT A SHORT-TERM TEST.** Follow the directions for setting up the detector and conducting the test. This will give you results in a fairly short period of time.

**5 FOLLOW-UP MEASUREMENTS.** Are the tests used to determine if you need to lower radon levels in your home. The higher the average the sooner you should take corrective measures.

**6 IF THE RESULT OF YOUR SHORT-TERM MEASUREMENT IS BETWEEN 4 PICOCURIES PER LITER, pCi/L (A STANDARD MEASUREMENT FOR RADIOACTIVE GAS) AND 8 pCi/L,** do follow-up measurements with a long-term detector available from the sources listed in 3. Generally this should remain in place for about a year.

**7 IF THE RESULT OF YOUR SCREENING TEST IS GREATER THAN 8 pCi/L,** do a follow-up measurement with a short-term detector following the same test procedures used in 4. Average the two results together.

**8 IF THE RESULT OF YOUR SCREENING TEST IS GREATER THAN 80 pCi/L,** immediately contact the Iowa Department of Public Health at 1-800-383-5992.

**9 CORRECTIVE MEASURES** are usually not as simple as filling cracks in basement walls. You may need the help of a professional to work on the more complex aspects of stopping radon seepage into your home. Be sure that the professional is certified by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

**10 QUESTIONS?** Call the Iowa Radon Line, 1-800-383-5992. Phone Device for the deaf (TDD) number is 515-242-6156.