

# Radon: What You Need to Know About Risk, Testing and Repair



**SOUTHWEST  
HEALTH & HUMAN  
SERVICES**

Southwest Health and Human  
Services  
607 West Main Street  
Suite 200  
Marshall, MN 56258  
Phone: (507) 537-6713

## Southwest Region of Minnesota Radon Data by County Percentage of homes tested that exceed the recommended limit of 4 pCi/L

<u>County</u>	<u>%</u>
Jackson	49%
Lincoln	66%
Lyon	71%
Murray	58%
Nobles	63%
Pipestone	59%
Redwood	65%
Renville	60%
Rock	69%

For More Information Contact:

Southwest Health and Human Services  
at (507) 537-6713

Minnesota Department of Health  
Indoor Air & Lead Unit  
Toll Free: (800) 798-9050

American Lung Association of  
Minnesota  
Toll Free: (800) 586-4872  
(651) 227-8014

### Radon Test Kit Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Short-term Kits \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$6.00 = Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Price includes sales tax, laboratory analysis and results)

Mail this form and your check or money order to:  
Southwest Health and Human Services  
607 West Main Street, Suite 200  
Marshall, MN 56258

**Myth:** There is no such thing as radon.

**Fact: Radon is a colorless and odorless gas that occurs naturally in soils.** It is a decay product of uranium which is a common element in many soils found in our region. If you spend a great amount of time in your home (maybe you are retired, a stay-at-home family, disabled or a telecommuter) and your home has elevated levels of radon, your risk of developing lung cancer due to radon exposure increases.

**Myth:** Radon is not a health problem.

**Fact: Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer.** Smokers exposed to radon have an even greater risk of lung cancer. Radon is a known carcinogen. The following organizations recognize the health risk associated with radon and recommend testing of homes and fixing the problem, if a problem exists:

American Lung Association  
American Cancer Society  
American Medical Association  
The Surgeon General  
National Academy of Sciences  
US Environmental Protection Agency

**Myth:** Radon testing is difficult and expensive.

**Fact: Testing for radon is easy and inexpensive.** Short-term tests take between 3-7 days to complete and cost \$6.00.

## Facts About Radon

- Radon is a naturally occurring element often found in soil and groundwater.
- Radon causes lung cancer.
- Radon testing is easy.
- A short-term test costs \$6.00.
- Fixing a radon problem costs between \$500 and \$2500.
- Radon resistant new construction techniques will cost between \$350 and \$500 but may save your life.
- Radon can enter a home from tiny cracks, sumps, drains, and pipes in the foundation.
- The southwest region of Minnesota is an area with the greatest potential for high radon levels.
- You should test your home for radon.

Call 507/537-6713 for more information.

**Myth:** My neighbor tested so I no longer need to test my home for radon.

**Fact: Radon levels can vary widely from home to home in a neighborhood.** Entry of radon into a home depends on many factors including soil type, type of foundation, previously installed radon reduction mechanisms, type of heating/air conditioning system and weather.

**Myth:** Selling my home will be difficult if a radon problem is discovered.

**Fact: Many states require radon testing prior to a real estate transaction.** When radon problems have been detected and have been fixed, sales of homes have not been blocked.

**Myth:** Reducing radon levels in my home is expensive and hard to do.

**Fact: If high radon levels are detected in your home after a test, you should retest to confirm the elevated level of radon.** The installation of radon reduction system (typically a vent pipe, gravel under the foundation and a fan) by an EPA certified contractor is easy and will cost between \$500 and \$2500.

**Myth:** Radon is only a problem in certain parts of the country.

**Fact: High levels of radon have been found all over in southwestern Minnesota.** US EPA estimates that 1 in 5 homes in Minnesota have elevated levels of radon.