



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JANUARY IS NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH

Crow Wing County, The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and public health organizations across the country urge everyone to test their home for radon, the invisible radioactive gas found at elevated levels in many Minnesota homes. About 2 in 5 Minnesota homes have dangerous levels of radon gas and state health officials say every home should be tested. Fortunately, the risk is largely preventable, by testing homes and fixing radon problems.

To help residents get a more accurate picture of radon levels in Minnesota, MDH launched a series of maps showing information about Radon in Minnesota: [Radon in Minnesota](#)

- More than 40% of Minnesota homes have dangerous levels of radon.
- Only 1-2% of homes are tested annually.
- Minnesota has unusually high radon levels due to its unique geology and cold climate. The average radon level in Minnesota is more than three times higher than the U.S. radon level: 4.2 pCi/L (picocuries of radon per liter of air) compared to 1.3 pCi/L.
- Testing and mitigation is less frequent in communities with lower incomes and more renters.

Radon is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless radioactive gas that occurs naturally in Minnesota soils. It can enter into all kinds of homes through cracks or openings in walls or foundations. The only way for residents to know if their home has radon is to test.

In the winter, home heating systems tend to draw in radon gas from the soil, increasing radon levels inside the home. Many Minnesotans also use basements as living spaces, which can increase radon exposure. Renters, especially those in ground or garden level units, should test their homes or ask their landlords to test. Although testing can be done year-round, the best time to test is during the heating season. Homes should be tested at least every 5 years. It is important to perform a radon test after buying a new heating system or adding central air conditioning.

Testing is easy, only takes 2-5 days, and is FREE through Crow Wing County Land Services Department to area residents. Radon test kits are available to be picked up in the Land Services Building at the customer service counter located at 322 Laurel St. Ste 15, Brainerd, MN between the hours of 8 am and 4:30 pm. There is a limit of one radon kit per household.

Tests should be done in the lowest level of the home that is frequently occupied. If your home's level is at or above 4 pCi/L, you should consider verification testing and having a radon mitigation system installed. Anyone interested in mitigating their home for radon should consult MDH's list of radon mitigation professionals: [Find a Radon Mitigation Professional - EH: Minnesota Department of Health \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

Minnesota law requires disclosure and information be provided to buyers about radon during Minnesota home sales. The law requires sellers to inform buyers whether their home has been tested for radon and if so, what the levels are and whether the home has been mitigated for radon. In addition, sellers must provide a warning statement and a 2-page publication to the buyer. Radon tests can be incorporated into a home inspection. The law does not require radon testing or mitigation. Another law requires all new homes built since 2009 be built with passive radon resistant features. About 1 in 5 of these newer homes have radon above the recommended action level; this is an improvement over the levels found in the overall Minnesota housing stock where about 2 in 5 homes have elevated levels. MDH encourages builders to activate the passive radon resistant features through the addition of a radon fan. In addition, new home buyers can request the fan be added during construction. In these new homes with radon fans, MDH has found very low radon concentrations.

For more information on radon visit [Radon in Minnesota - MN Public Health Data Access portal - MN Data \(state.mn.us\)](#) or contact The Minnesota Department of Health Indoor Air Unit at 651-201-4601.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Land Services Office at (218) 824-1010 or landservices@crowwing.gov to discuss land use activities. Crow Wing County information and resources can be found at www.crowwing.gov.