

Waukesha County: Encourages residents to test for dangerous radon gas in their homes

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(Waukesha, WI) – Waukesha County health officials encourage homeowners to test for radon gas during National Radon Action Month in January. Thousands of homes in southeast Wisconsin have elevated levels of radon, and radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer behind cigarette smoking.

“Radon test kits are an easy first step in making sure your family is safe from this dangerous gas,” said Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow. “Test kits are available either through the County or at your local hardware store.”

Radon is an odorless radioactive gas that is naturally present in the ground and can enter buildings through their foundations. Both old and newer homes can be susceptible to radon. Between 40 and 50 percent of homes tested in Southeast Wisconsin have elevated airborne concentrations on the main living level where people spend the most time, according to state data.

January is ideal for running a radon test since homes are closed up for the winter. Radon test kits cost about \$10 and are available through local home supply stores, through the Southeastern Wisconsin Radon Information Center (SEWRIC) by calling 262-896-8300, or through your local public health agency.

For more information on radon testing, visit: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/radon>

For information about radon in Wisconsin, visit: www.lowradon.org