

# Test Your Home for Radon

Radon Tipsheet #2



September 2011



## Testing for radon in air and well water—quick, easy, and critical to family health

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. High levels of radon gas occur naturally in Maine soil and water, and can move up into a house from the ground. The house then traps the radon in the air inside. Radon gas can also dissolve into well water, which is then released into the air when you use the water. Simple air and well water tests can show whether home radon levels meet state and national safety guidelines.

### Any home can have a radon problem. Testing is the only way to find a problem.

It doesn't matter if your house is old or new or where it's located. The only way to know if your house has a problem is to test. If you have a well, you need to test your water along with your air. If you are buying or selling a house and testing for radon, state law requires you to use a Maine registered radon tester. Go to the website listed at the bottom of the page to find a registered tester.

**Testing Your Air:** You can test for radon in air using a simple test kit you can purchase from a registered testing lab for \$60 or less. Most radon air test kits are small bottles or canisters that you open for 2 to 7 days, and then reseal and send back to the lab. To get accurate results, follow the instructions that come with the test. Key instructions include:

- When possible, test when your heat is on (during cool months).
- Close all doors and windows for 12 hours before starting the test.
- Keep windows and doors closed during the test, except for normal coming and going.
- Place the bottles or canisters in the lowest livable area of the house – usually the basement.
- After the test time is over, mail the bottles/canisters back to the lab in the envelope provided by the lab.

**Testing Your Well Water:** Only well water, not town or public water, needs testing. Some wells have high levels of radon. The main danger comes from breathing in the radon when water is used. You can test for radon in well water using a simple test kit purchased from a Maine registered water testing lab, for about \$40 or less. Follow the instructions that come with it. Purchase a kit by using the list on the back.

### Treatment systems work to lower radon levels in air and water.

Radon problems can be fixed. Once you test and know your radon numbers, you can plan next steps. In most homes, current methods make it possible to get air and well water levels below current safety guidelines.

If both air and well water tests are done, the results must be considered together to decide on the best and most cost effective fix.

## Protect your family. Learn. Test. Treat if needed.

- Check this website: [www.MaineRadiationControl.org](http://www.MaineRadiationControl.org)
- For advice: 1-800-232-0842 • [radon.dhhs@maine.gov](mailto:radon.dhhs@maine.gov) • TTY: 800-606-0215



Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
An Office of the Department of Health and Human Services

Paul R. LePage, Governor

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

## LABS REGISTERED TO PROVIDE RADON AIR OR WATER TESTING

### Maine and New England

AccuStar Labs  
Medway, Mass.  
508-533-8812  
Maine Radon ID # ME05300C  
Air & Water testing

Maine Water  
West Rockport, Maine  
207-236-8428  
Maine Radon ID # ME22200C  
Water testing

Maine Health & Environmental  
Testing Laboratory  
Augusta, Maine  
207-287-2727  
Air & Water testing

Nelson Analytical  
Manchester, NH  
603-622-0200  
Maine Radon ID # ME17500C  
Air & Water testing

Northeast Laboratory Services  
Waterville, Maine  
207-873-7711 or 800-244-8378  
Maine Radon ID # ME00300C  
Air & Water testing

Radon Check  
Scarborough, Maine  
207-885-0851 or 800-675-0851  
Maine Radon ID # ME05300C  
Air & Water testing

Radon Diagnostic Laboratory  
Auburn, Maine  
207-784-5354  
Maine Radon ID # ME02000C  
Air & Water testing

Seacoast Analytical Services  
Durham, NH  
603-868-1457  
Maine Radon ID # ME07800C  
Air & Water testing

TRC Environmental Corporation  
Windsor, CT  
860-298-6392  
Air testing

### Outside New England

Air Check  
Fletcher, NC  
1-828-684-0893  
Maine Radon ID # ME00700C  
Air testing

Alpha Energy Laboratories  
Carrollton, TX  
972-242-7750 ext. 51  
Maine Radon ID # ME04400C  
Air testing

EMSL Analytical, Inc.  
Cinnaminson, NJ  
800-220-3675  
Maine Radon ID # ME20200C  
Air testing

Landauer, Inc.  
Glenwood, IL  
708-755-7000  
Maine Radon ID # ME01300C  
Air testing (long term only)

Pro-Lab  
Weston, FL  
1-800-427-0550  
Maine Radon ID # ME17000C  
Air & Water testing

Radalink, Inc.  
Atlanta, GA  
1-800-295-4655  
Maine Radon ID# ME04900C  
Air testing

RaData, Inc.  
Flanders, NJ  
973-927-7303  
Maine Radon ID # ME08000C  
Air & Water testing

RSSI  
Morton Grove, IL  
1-847-965-1999  
Maine Radon ID # ME10100C  
Air testing (long term only)

RTCA  
Elmsford, NY  
1-800-675-0851  
Maine Radon ID # ME02400C  
Air & Water testing

U.S. Inspect  
Chantilly, VA  
703-293-1511  
Air testing

Updated 12/12/12  
Registrations Valid to 10/1/13  
Some laboratories may have  
registered since this update.  
For a current list see  
[www.MaineRadiationControl.org](http://www.MaineRadiationControl.org)  
Please call **1-800-232-0842** or  
email [radon.dhhs@maine.gov](mailto:radon.dhhs@maine.gov)  
if you have a problem  
contacting a company listed  
here.

**Protect your family. Learn. Test. Treat if needed.**

• Call for advice: **1-800-232-0842** • TTY: **800-606-0215** Email questions to [radon.dhhs@maine.gov](mailto:radon.dhhs@maine.gov)

Visit [www.maineradiationcontrol.org](http://www.maineradiationcontrol.org) for more information