

## TYPES OF RADIATION TESTING H.E.T.L. OFFERS



- ◆ **Short Term Radon Air**  
Results mailed within 5 business days  
after sample receipt.
- ◆ **Long Term Radon Air**  
Kits returned to manufacturer for analysis  
Results mailed 6 weeks after sample receipt.
- ◆ **Radon in Water**  
Results mailed within 5 business days after  
sample receipt.
- ◆ **Gross Alpha**  
Testing requires approximately 2 weeks.
- ◆ **Radium**  
Testing requires approximately 2 months.  
(method requires long ingrowth periods)
- ◆ **Uranium**  
Results mailed approximately 10 business days.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ORDER TEST KITS



PLEASE CONTACT:

**Maine Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Health and Environmental  
Testing Laboratory  
221 State Street  
#12 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0012  
Ph:(207)287-1716  
Fax:(207)287-6832**

Maine Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Health and Environmental  
Testing Laboratory  
221 State Street  
#12 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0012

*What Every One Should  
Know About Testing Your  
Home For Radiation*

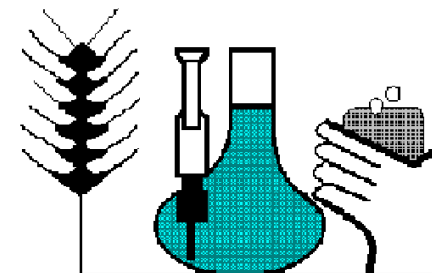


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**<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl>**



H.E.T.L

## WHY SHOULD I TEST?



Real estate transactions and health concerns often trigger testing of drinking water for many contaminants. Testing for radioactive elements is often overlooked when considering the numerous tests available. Yet radioactive elements can exist at unsafe levels in both the air in the home and in drinking water from drilled wells.



Radon is a radioactive gas that is formed from naturally occurring elements in the rocks and soil. It can filter through the soil and enter the basement of the home. It can also dissolve in the water and be released to the air in the home as you use the water. Radium and

uranium, the naturally occurring elements that produce radon, can also dissolve in well water. These elements emit a type of radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water with high levels of alpha emitters over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer and other health problems.

Radon and other alpha emitters can be detected through laboratory tests. These test kits are available at the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory and at private laboratories. A list of laboratories can be obtained from the Radiation Control Program at the DHHS Division of Health Engineering. **NOTE:** State law requires that radon testing in homes other than your own be done by persons registered with the Radiation Control Program. Remember – treatment methods are available which can reduce levels of any of these contaminants to acceptable levels!

## WHAT TESTS SHOULD I DO?

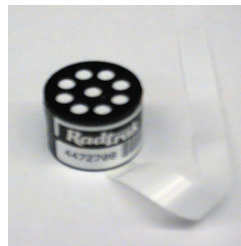


### Short Term Radon Air Test

This test is recommended for all homes. It measures radon present in the air in the home, but does not tell by what pathway it entered the home. Testing devices come in various shapes and sizes, but HETL's device is designed to test for a minimum of 2 days, no more than 3 days, and then be returned to the laboratory within 4 days of the end of the test for analysis.



### Long Term Radon Air Test



This test is often recommended as a follow-up test if the short-term test result shows higher than acceptable limits. This device can stay in the home up to one year to give an average concentration over time. It must be returned to the lab for analysis.

### Radon Water Test

This test is recommended for drilled wells and tests only for radon present in the water. It requires a special small vial to obtain the water sample with no air bubbles and must be returned to the laboratory within 4 days of the end of the test for analysis.



### Gross Alpha Test

This test detects the presence of any elements in the water that emit alpha radiation **EXCEPT RADON** and is recommended for drilled wells. It requires about one-half gallon of water to process. This test does not indicate what specific element is present, but only checks for any alpha emitters. Therefore, in some cases, more specific follow-up tests need to be done to determine whether a result is satisfactory or whether treatment is recommended. HETL is currently the only laboratory in Maine certified by EPA to do this test. A half gallon sample is required.



### Uranium Test



This test also might be recommended in some cases as a follow up to a high gross alpha test. It measures only the element uranium that might be present and requires a 120mL bottle sample.

### Radium Test

This test would be recommended in certain cases as follow up to a high gross alpha test and requires about 1 gallon of water for analysis. It looks only for the element radium but includes analysis for the two common isotopes of radium.

