

RADON BASICS & POLICIES

Indoor Air Unit | Radon Program
NAHRO Conference 9/16/2024

Speaker

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Reminder

- Your work may need to comply with asbestos and lead requirements
- See MDH websites
- Questions? Contact MDH Lead & Asbestos Program:
 - 651-201-4620
 - health.asbestos-lead@state.mn.us

Agenda:

Basics and Health

MDH Data Portal

HUD Policy

Testing

Mitigation

Laws and Policies



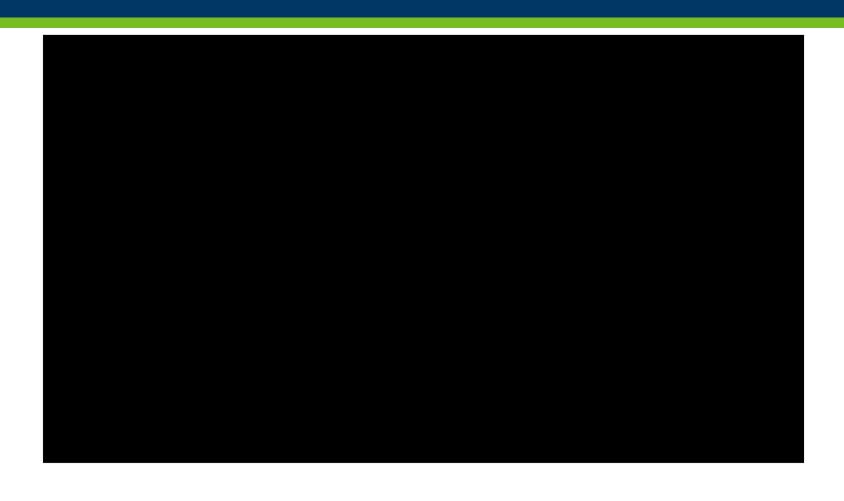
Basics & Health

What is Radon?

- Colorless, odorless, tasteless gas
- Radioactive
- Breakdown of uranium
- <u>Leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers</u>



A Personal Radon Story



Health Effects

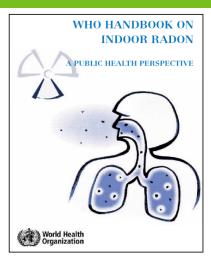
Second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S.



^{*}EPA Assessment of Risks from Radon in Homes (June 2003, EPA-402-R-30-0003)

What Level is Elevated?

- There is no known safe level of radon
 - Goal: as low as reasonably achievable
- World Health Organization (WHO):
 - 2.7 pCi/L health based standard
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):
 - 2 pCi/L (unofficial recommendation)
 - 4 pCi/L (official action level)





Lifetime Risk of Dying from Lung Cancer

Risk is shown per 1,000 people

Radon Level (pCi/L)	Never Smokers	Current Smokers	General Population
20	36	260	110
10	18	150	56
8	15	120	45
4*	7	62	23
2	4	32	12

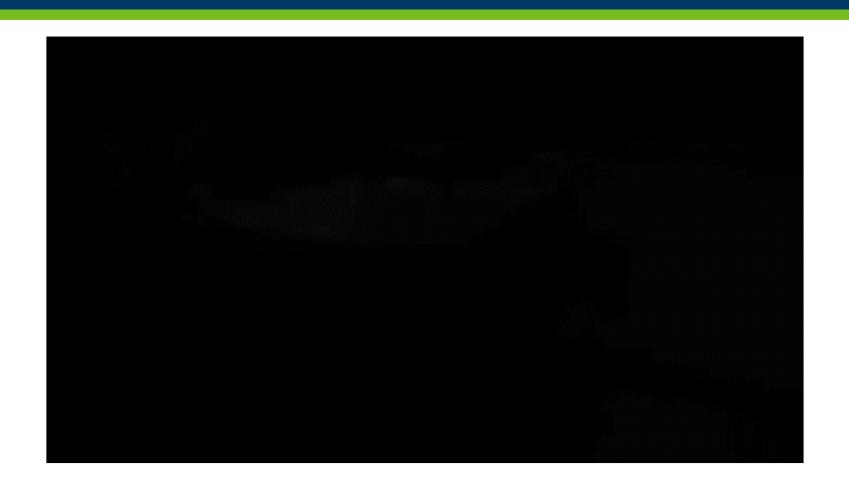
^{*} EPA Action Level

Radon Emits Particles that Can Etch Hard Plastic

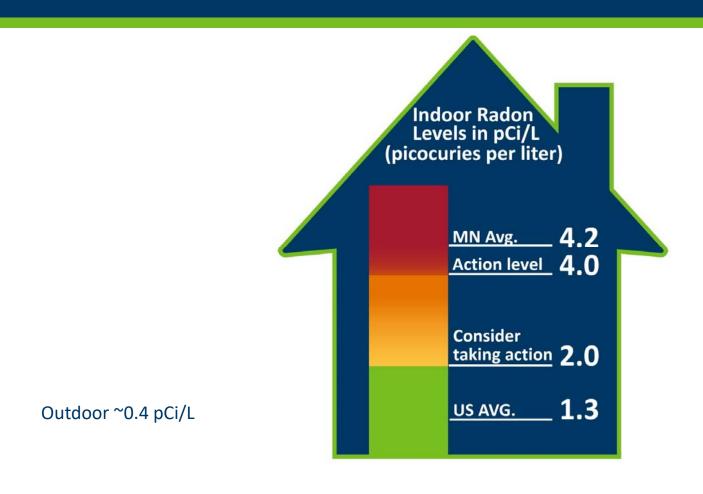


Long Term Kit, 100x magnification

Radon Can be Seen in Cloud Chamber

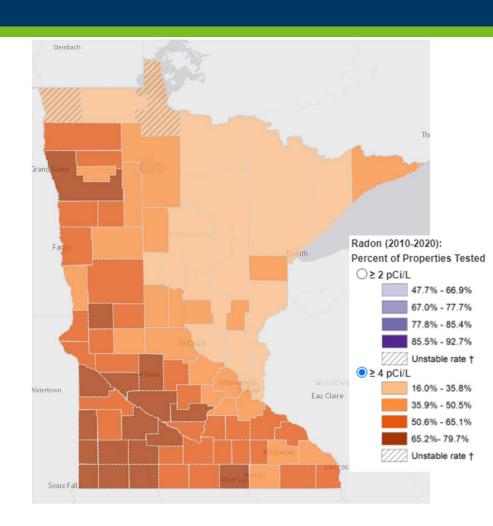


Average radon levels



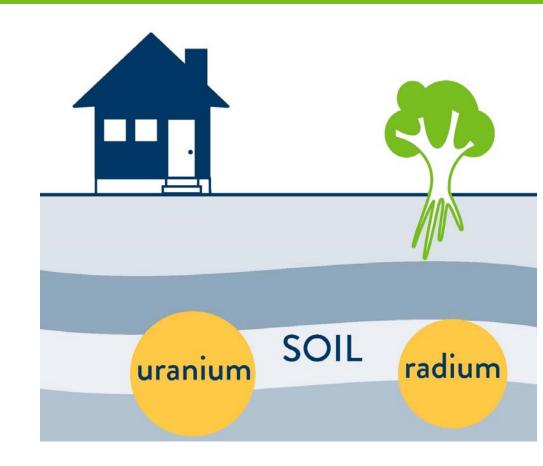
Radon levels high across state

- 228,000+ properties
- Mean=4.2 pCi/L
 - Summer (3.5) vs Winter (4.6)
- 40% of homes elevated

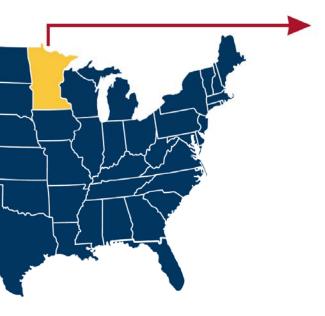


Where is radon found?

- Soil
 - Major source in Minnesota
- Water
- Air



Radon action level



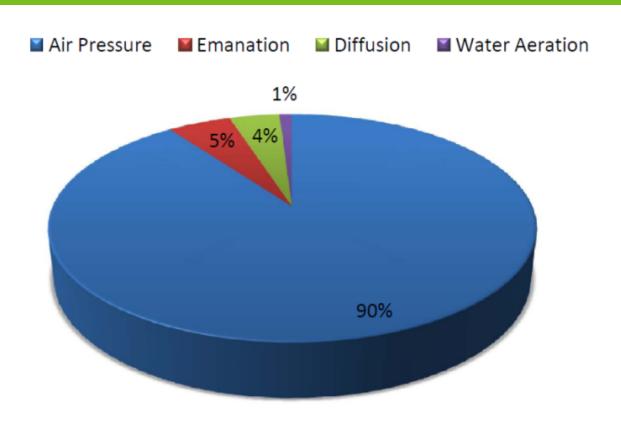
Minnesota's radon levels are more than 3x higher than the rest of the United States.

Action level is at 4 pCi/L



2 out of 5 Minnesota homes have high radon levels.

Driving Forces for Indoor Radon Levels



How does radon enter a home?



How does radon enter a home?

Air Pressure



Stack Effect:

As warm air leaves the top of the house, air comes in the bottom of the house



Down Wind Draft Effect:

Wind flowing over the top of a house creates the same effect as the stack effect



Vacuum Effect:

Air mechanically exhausted from the house is replaced from other pathways

Stack Effect



Any house can have high radon

- Slab-on-Grade and Basements
 - Entry through floor joints, cracks, plumbing penetrations.



- Crawl-Space
 - Entry from large soil area and drawn into living space.



- Mobile Homes
 - If well skirted, they act like crawl spaces.

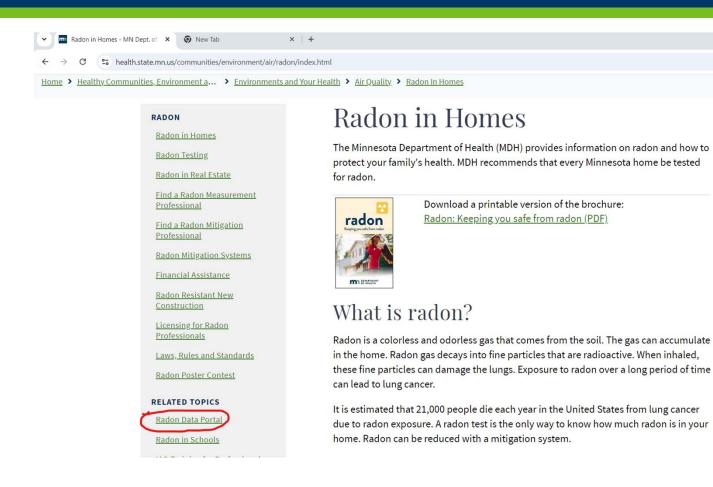




MDH Data Portal

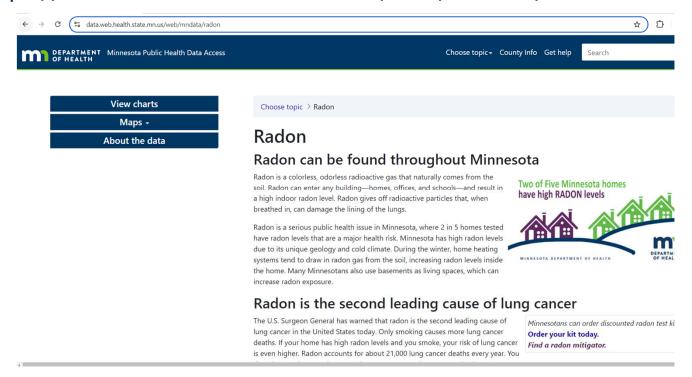
Minnesota Data

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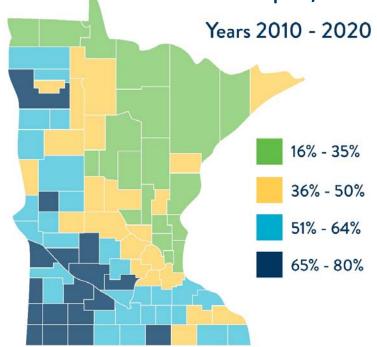


Minnesota Data

https://data.web.health.state.mn.us/web/mndata/radon



Percent of MN Properties Tested for Radon that are ≥ 4 pCi/L



- 10 years of data (2010 2020)
- Data comes from labs (2010 2020)
 and radon professionals (2019 2020)

Radon Professional vs. Lab Data

Data sets from 2019 and 2020

Professional Data

- 61,238 radon tests
- Testing was highest in the summer season with 31% of total tests
- Geographically tests had a similar pattern to Lab Data
- Mostly real estate testing completed in the summer and the results are lower overall than the homeowner testing

Lab Data

- 35,828 radon tests
- Testing was highest in winter with 38% of total tests
- Geographically tests had a similar pattern to Pro Data
- Mostly winter testing corresponding with NRAM and the results are higher

About the Data

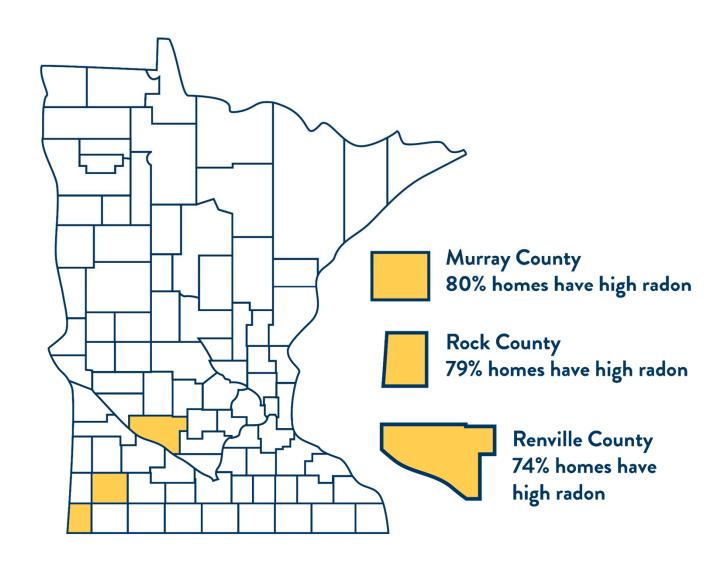
- Data include commercial and residential radon tests
- Assumes tests were done properly
- Mitigation status?
- Multiple results at one location
 - Multifamily, school, or large building
 - Multiple tests at one location
- QA/QC results (blanks, spikes, duplicates)

Cleaning the Data – Multiple tests at one location

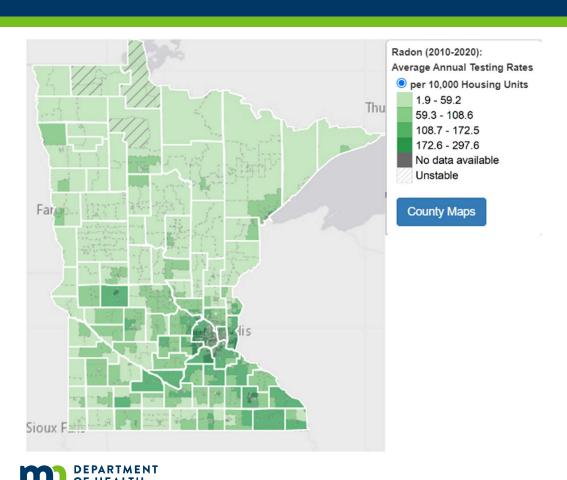
- If the purpose of the indicator was to get a count of the number of properties that tested for radon, then only one test was counted for each latitude/longitude.
- If the purpose of the indicator was to calculate a statistic (mean, median, 95th percentile) then the tests were averaged at the latitude/longitude level before the statistic was calculated at the county level.
- If the purpose of the indicator was to get the count and percent of properties tested ≥2 and ≥4 then the maximum value per latitude/longitude was selected.

Percent of Properties above 4 pCi/L

Top 3
Counties



Testing Rates Vary Across State



- Average Annual Properties Tested (lab analyzed): per 10,000 housing units
- Overall about 1.5 % tested per year
 - Goal: 20%

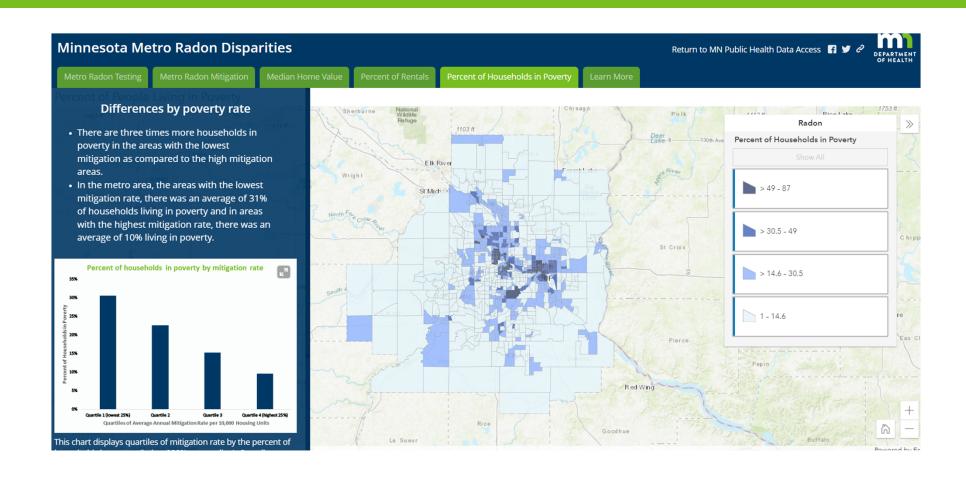
How the data is used

- Planning, outreach, research, and evaluation
- Inform which Minnesota counties should be targeted for increased radon awareness and testing efforts
- Evaluate radon testing rates and program outcomes
- Educate the public about the health effects from radon exposure

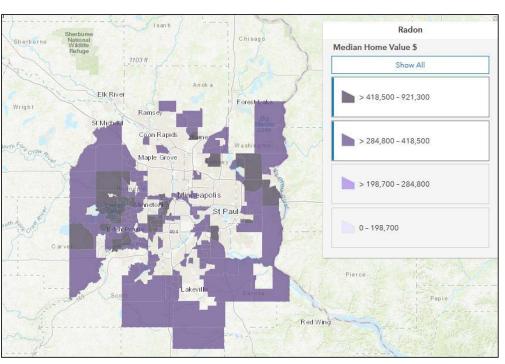
What the Data Can't Tell Us

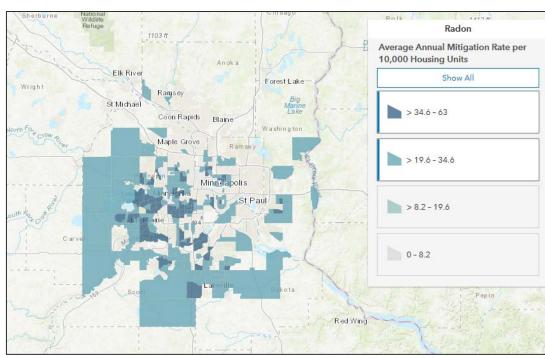
What the radon level is in your home/school/office

7 County Metro Area Radon Disparities



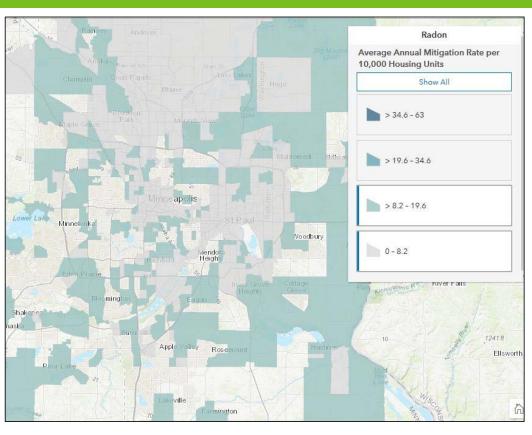
Median Home Values vs. Mitigation Rates (High)

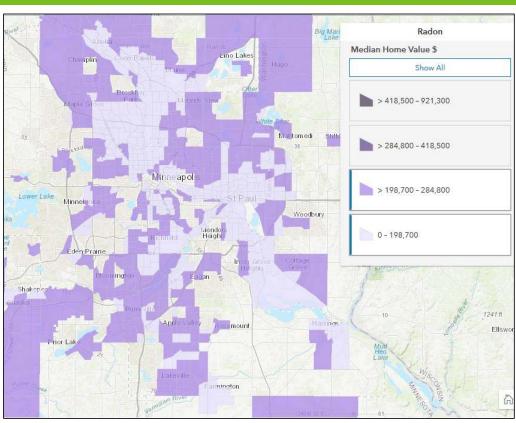






Median Home Values vs. Mitigation Rates (Low)







Mapping Radon Disparities – Results

- Testing rates are lowest in the urban core tracts of Minneapolis and St. Paul and highest in the western suburbs of Hennepin and Carver Counties
- There is more radon mitigation in the western and southern tracts and less mitigation in the urban core
- Metro mitigation rates are greater in areas with higher median home value
- Metro mitigation rates were lower in areas with higher proportion of rental housing
- Three times more households in poverty in the areas with the lowest mitigation



School Project

- Public Schools (includes charters): 2018-2022
 - 39% of schools had at least one room tested for radon.
 - 25% of school districts had at least one school tested for radon.
 - 16% of schools tested had elevated radon levels (130 schools).



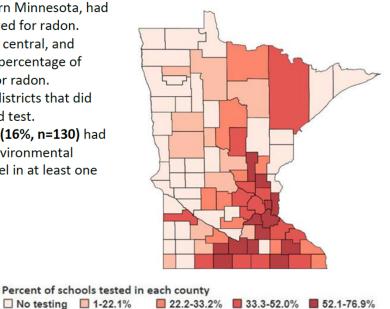


School Project

Public school radon testing is not evenly distributed across Minnesota

 37 counties, mostly in western Minnesota, had zero school districts that tested for radon.

- Counties in the metro, south central, and southeast area had a higher percentage of school districts that tested for radon.
- Nearly half (49%) of school districts that did test had at least one elevated test.
- Of schools that were tested, (16%, n=130) had elevated radon above the Environmental Protection Agency action level in at least one room.



Source: Minnesota Department of Health

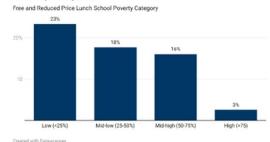
Map data: Radon school test data from 2018-2022

School Project

Public school districts with a higher proportion of low-income students were less likely to test for radon

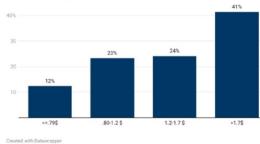
- School districts with the most students eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) tested an average of 20% fewer schools in the district for radon than school districts with the fewest students eligible for FRPL.
- Charter schools proportionally had more students who qualify for FRPL than independent schools.

Average percent school districts tested for radon by school district poverty levels

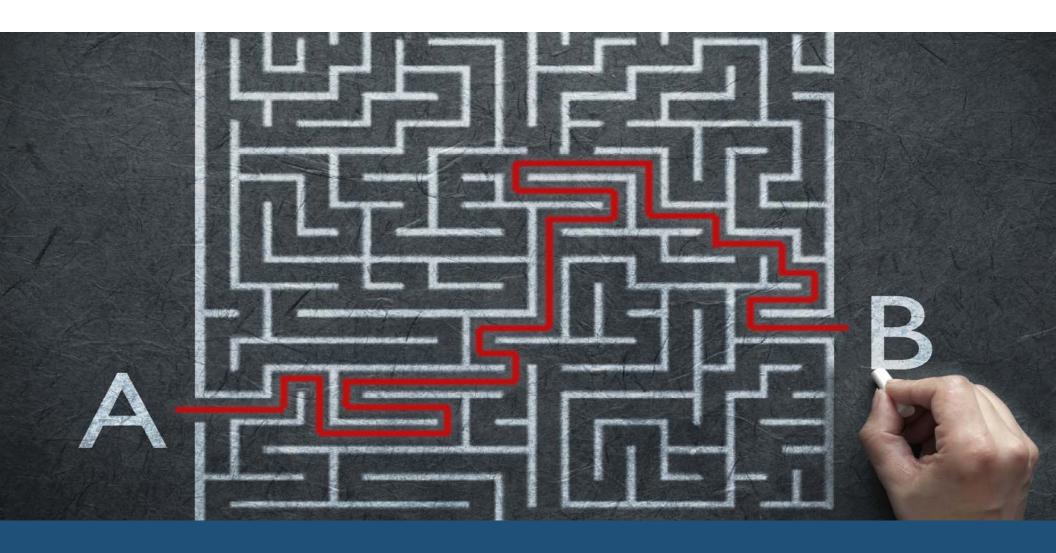


Public school districts with less facility funding were less likely to test for radon

Average percent of school districts tested for radon by school dollars per square feet



- School districts in the highest funding category had an average of 29% more schools per district tested for radon than the lowest funding category.
- The Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Program (LTFM) can be used for radon testing and mitigation. LTFM funding is based on the number of students, school building square footage, and other factors; funding amounts vary between school districts.



HUD Policy

HUD Departmental Radon Policy

- On January 11, 2024, HUD published its departmentwide radon policy notice, Departmental Policy for Addressing Radon in the Environmental Review Process
- With the Notice, HUD is addressing the risk of residential radon exposure across the entire Department for the first time
- The policy falls under HUD's contamination regulations at 24 CFR 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2), part of the environmental (NEPA) review of proposed HUD-supported projects.
- The Policy requires consideration of radon gas in HUD projects subject to HUD contamination regulations

- The policy encourages the testing of radon as the most effective means by which site-specific levels of radon can be identified, though the policy does not require testing.
- This policy serves as an initial step toward advancing radon awareness and mitigation of the hazard in HUD-assisted housing nationwide.
- Radon testing is not required, but mitigation is required if the method used to consider radon shows levels at 4.0 pCi/L or greater

- Implementation date of April 11, 2024 for all non-tribal and recipients, and January 11, 2026 for all Tribe, Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE), and Department of Hawaiian Homeland (DHHL) recipients
 - On these dates, responsible entities (REs) and HUD staff must consider radon as part of any non-tiered environmental review (ER) that is not yet certified, regardless of where they are in the ER process

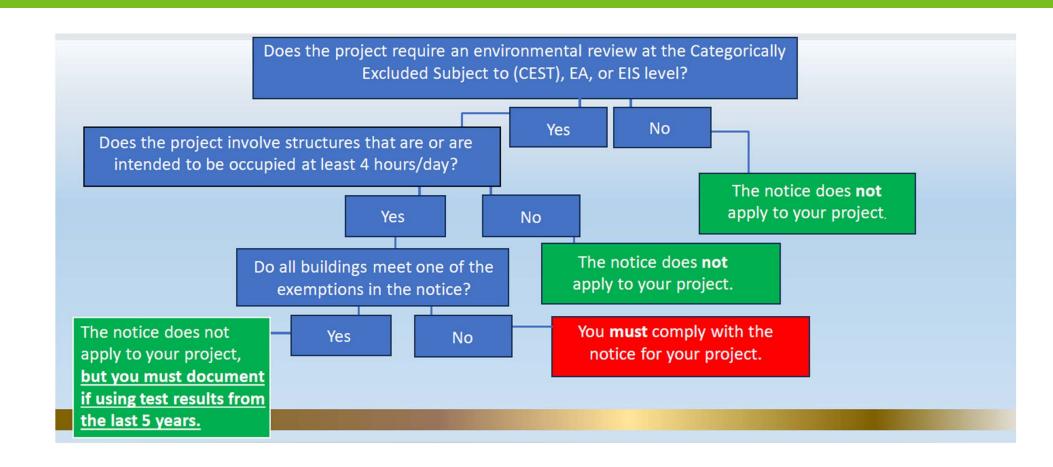
Tiered reviews:

- For tier 1 and tier 2 reviews completed prior to the effective date: HUD strongly recommends compliance with the policy for any in-progress and new tier 2 reviews, but do not require it
- For tier 1 reviews in-progress during or started after the effective date: you *must* comply with the policy for the tier 1 and all subsequent tier 2 reviews

- This radon policy does not preempt any existing, federal state, or local requirements regarding radon
- It also does not preempt the radon requirements found in HUD's Office of Housing programs following the Multifamily Accelerated Processing (MAP) Guide, Healthcare Mortgage Insurance Program Handbook, Rental Assistance Demonstration Program Notice and supplemental guidance, or other current or future radon guidance that is more prescriptive

Not subject to HUD Radon Policy

- Non-HUD projects: projects with no HUD nexus
- HUD projects not subject to HUD's contamination regulations:
 - Projects not subject to NEPA review (ex. issuance of single-family FHA mortgages)
- Those at the "Categorically Excluded Not Subject To" (CENST) level of review
- Buildings with no enclosed areas having ground contact; buildings that are not residential and will not be occupied for more than 4 hours per day; buildings with existing mitigation systems where radon levels are below 4 pCi/L



- Preferred, Best Practice: ANSI/AARST radon testing and mitigation standards
- Although tessting is not required under this policy, testing is the only way to determine the radon level within a building.

- Alternative strategies that can be used (if testing not otherwise required by law/reg):
 - Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Testing: Use of individual DIY home radon test kits
 - Continuous Radon Monitoring Devices: for use by trained local government staff in remote areas
 - Review of science-based data on radon in the area where the project site is located: state/tribal geologic data, CDC radon test data

• If use of any of the methods determines that indoor radon levels are or may be above 4 pCi/L, then the responsible entity must document and implement a mitigation plan.

The mitigation plan must:

- identify the radon level
- describe the radon reduction system that will be installed
- establish an ongoing maintenance plan
- establish a reasonable timeframe for implementation
- require post-installation testing by a licensed radon professional, where feasible

Do-it-Yourself Testing

- In Minnesota, only allowed by the individual who owns or leases the building
- Test kits should be approved by NRPP or NRSB
 - https://nrpp.info/nrpp-approved-labs/
 - https://nrsb.org/devices/accredited-laboratories/
- All manufacturer instructions should be followed precisely
- Short-term test kits are typically 2 7 days

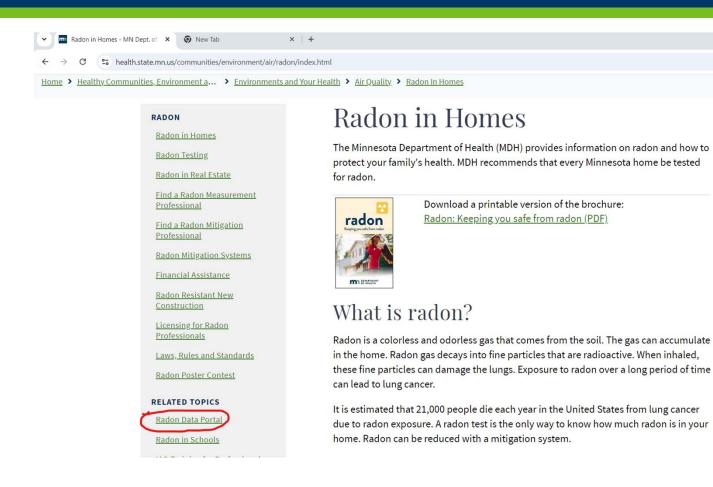
- This alternative option involves the use of available science-based data to determine whether the project site is located in an area that has average documented radon levels at or above 4.0 pCi/L
- This will often be done by examining documented mean average pre-mitigation radon test results from reputable sources, such as state radon test databases, and the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) National Environmental Public Health Tracking Radon Test Data (CDC Data)
- Other sources include State/Tribe-generated radon information, such as surveys of radon levels from collecting radon measurement data or geological studies that identify high risk area

- Data used must correspond to the smallest geographic area for which the minimum amount of documented test results exist
 - Often, data, such as documented test results, will be shown at the county level, which is the largest level one must look at data
- Data used must be the best available data must be used, which is the most current data that best indicates the level of radon concentration at a project site and comes from the best source.
 - For example, if using CDC data, utilize data from states, rather than labs, whenever possible
 - Use the latest 10 years of radon testing results for a project area, if using this type of data

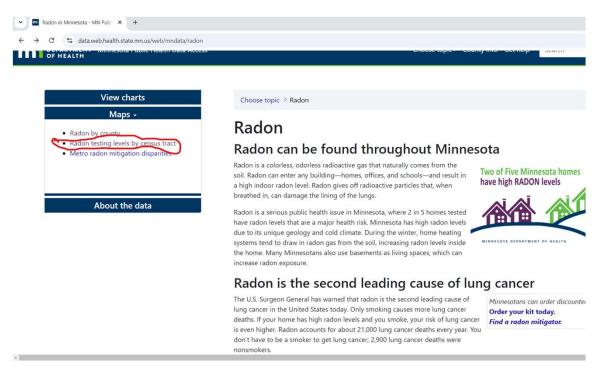
- The average radon level ascertained from this review is then assumed to be the level within any particular building(s) that are part of your HUD project, if no testing is done
 - Therefore, if the review shows levels at or above 4.0 pCi/L, then mitigation must be performed
- If there are less than 10 documented test results over the previous 10 years for which data is available in a given county and there is no other available science-based data, then there is a "lack of scientific data" In this case, no further consideration of radon is needed if testing is infeasible or impracticable

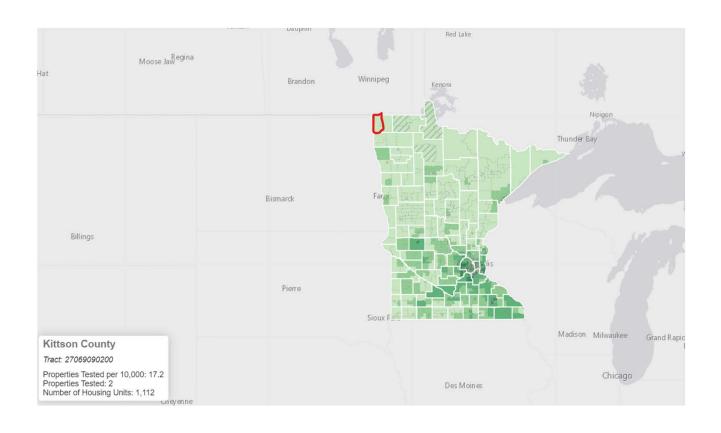
Additionally, testing data utilized should cover the smallest geographic area for which the minimum amount of documented test results exist, up in size to the county in which the project is located. The best available data must be used. Best available data refers to the most current data that best indicates the level of radon concentration at a project site. Whenever possible, utilize the average of the previous 10 years of data.

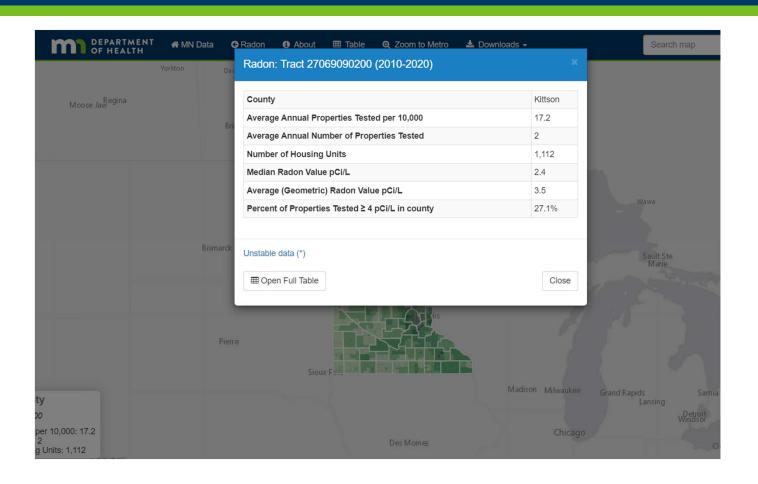
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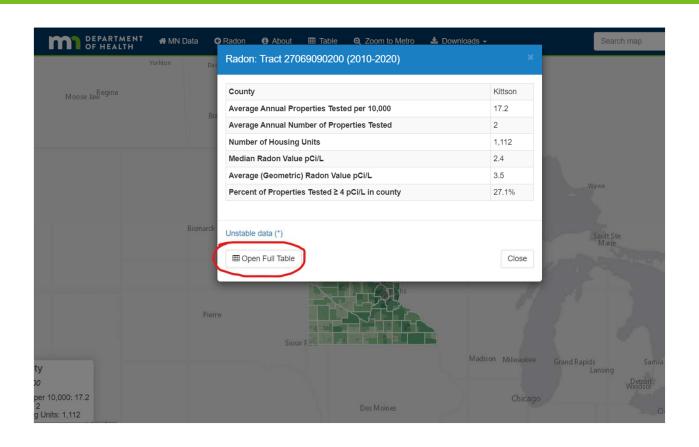


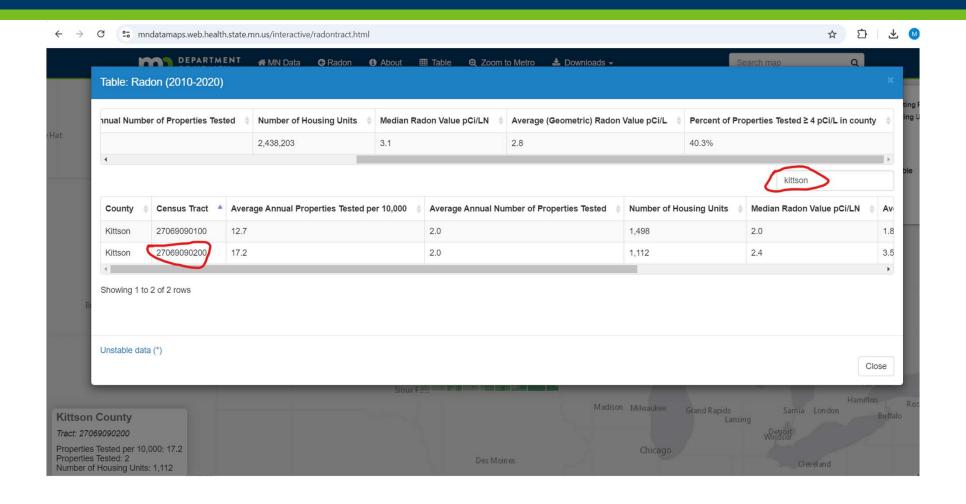
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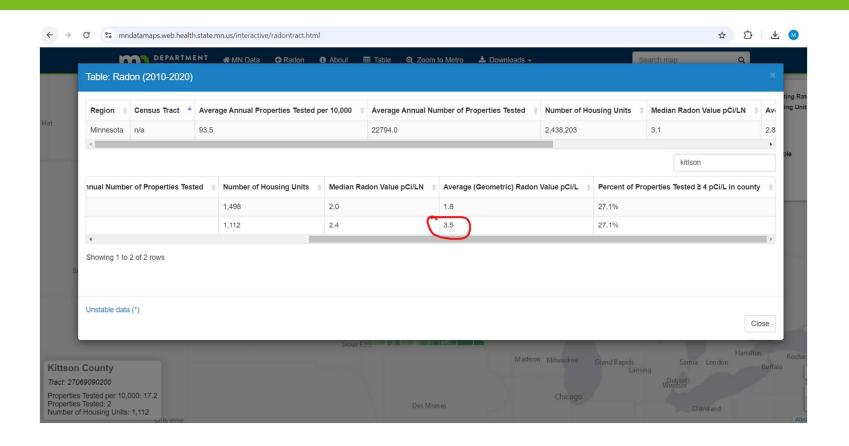


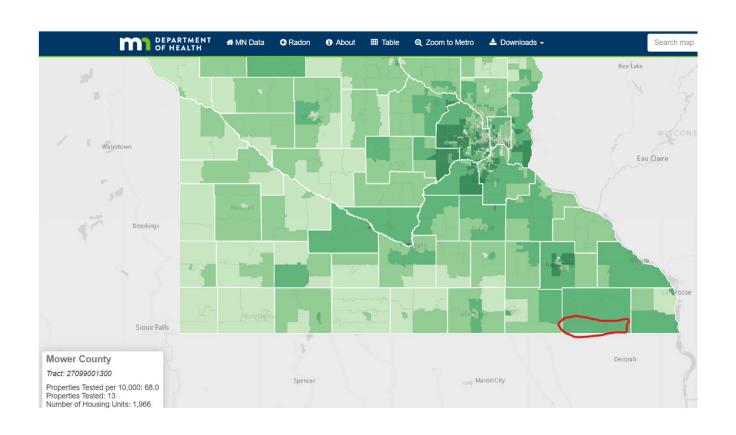


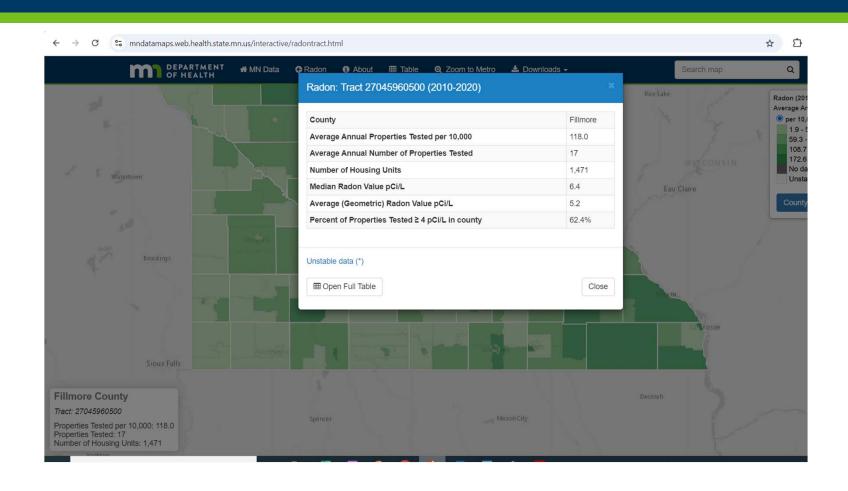












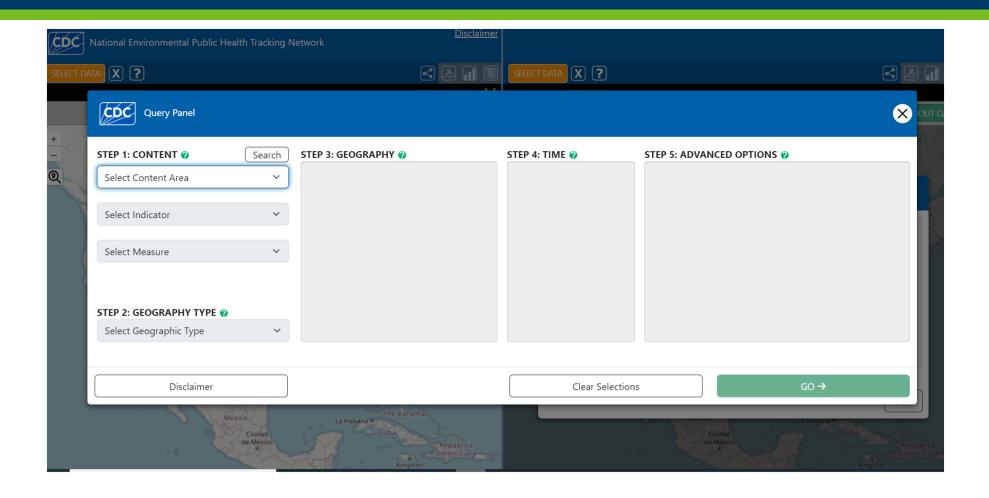
Documentation of review

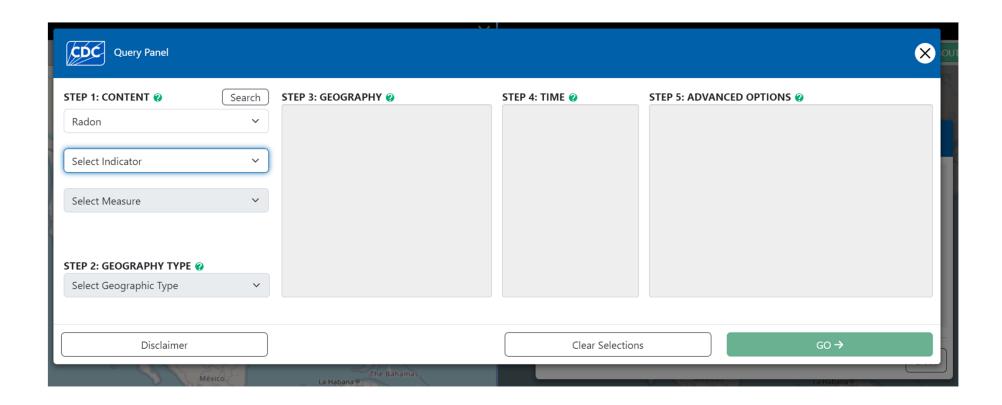
- Policy Review of CDC radon testing data, geologic studies/maps, other scientific data: Describe and cite the maps and data used to determine the area wide radon levels and include copies of all supporting documentation (maps/studies) in the ERR.
- Presentation from HUD states
 - "Screenshots of maps from the CDC Tracking Network webpage are sufficient for ER documentation purposes"

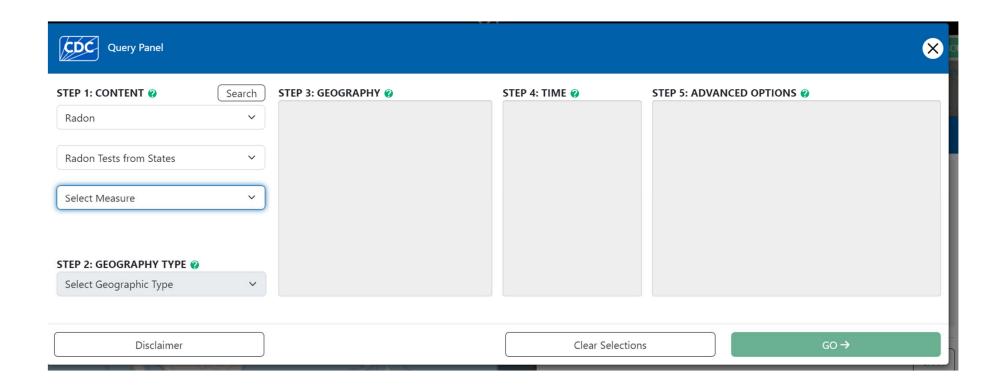
• Search CDC Data and National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network – CDC should be

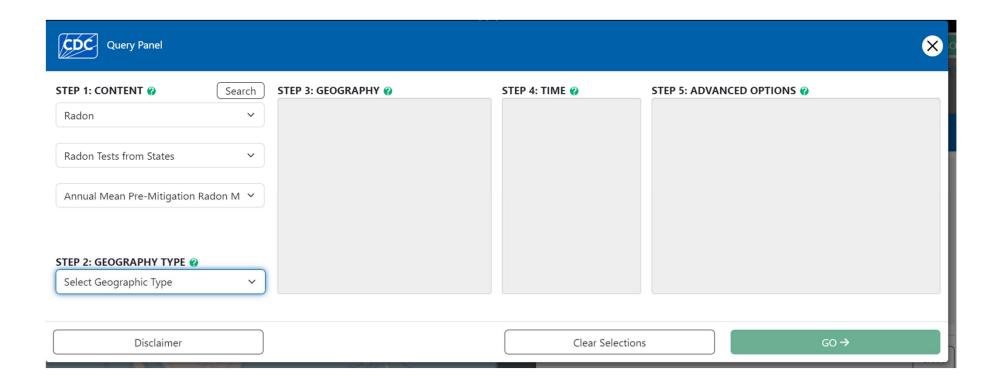
one of top results

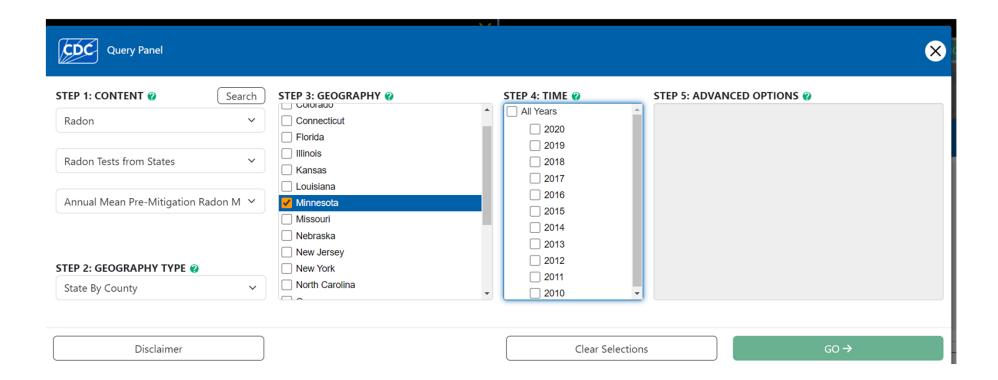




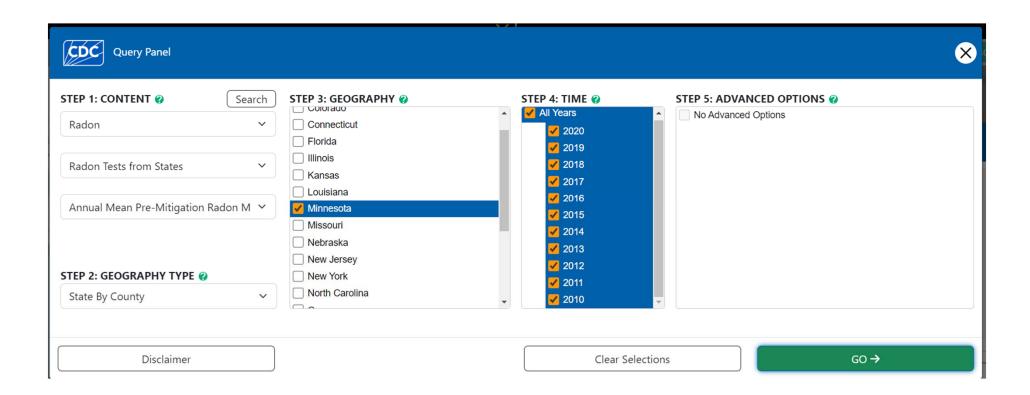




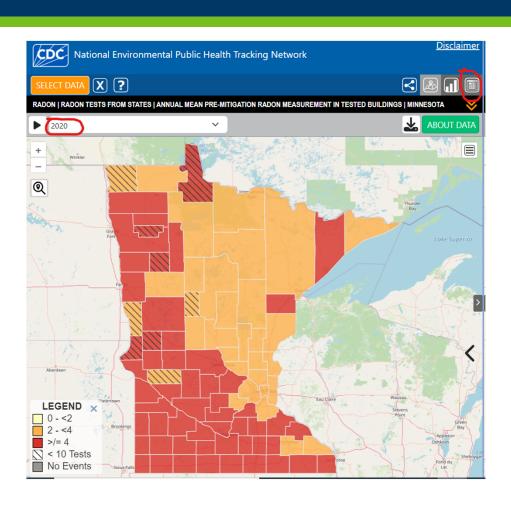




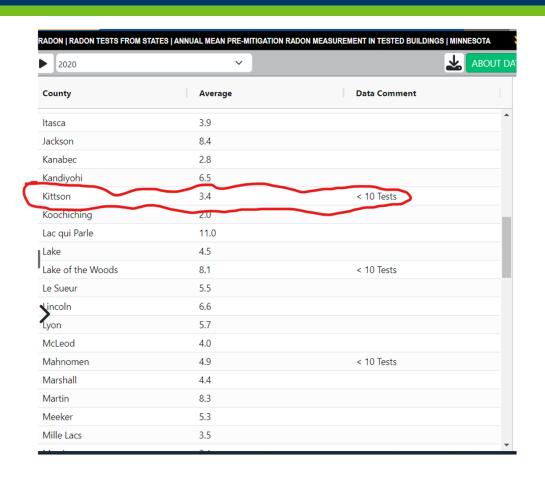
CDC Data



CDC Data



CDC Data



HUD Policy - Mitigation

- Mitigation under the Notice functions just as other mitigation under 50.3(i) and 58.5(i) does
- If radon testing or a review of science-based data shows a radon level for a building at or above 4
 pCi/L, then a mitigation plan is required
- If using a review of science-based data, however, radon testing can be done prior to initiation of mitigation to determine if mitigation is truly necessary for a building
 - If a review of science-based data shows levels at or above 4.0 pCi/L but subsequent testing shows levels in the building below 4.0, no mitigation is needed
 - By electing to test, preparers and recipients may ultimately save funds by avoiding unnecessary radon mitigation

HUD Policy - mitigation

- Mitigation plans must:
 - identify the radon level
 - consider the risk to occupants' health
 - describe the radon reduction system that will be installed
 - whenever possible, establish an ongoing maintenance plan to ensure the system is operating as intended
 - establish a reasonable timeframe for implementation
 - require post-installation testing
 - Where feasible, post-installation testing should be conducted by a licensed radon professional

HUD Policy - Documentation

- The Environmental Review Record (ERR) must document compliance with the Notice Including documentation of any test results or test value gained from a scientific data review, and, if needed, any mitigation plan
- Documentation may include ANSI/AARST testing reports, mitigation reports or plans, emails of test results from DIY test kits, emails from state radon control program staff, and more
 - Certain documentation (such as when using CDC-maintained testing data) can be completed using screenshots, like when using NEPAssist for other types of contamination

HUD Policy - Documentation

- If there is a lack of scientific data for a particular project, and an RE chooses not to conduct testing because it would be infeasible or impracticable, then the RE must document the lack of scientific data and "a basis for the conclusion that testing would be infeasible or impracticable"
 - To document the latter, REs must show that they assessed what it would take to test the building(s) within the property and whether that was feasible or practicable under the circumstances
 - For example, an RE may state that the cost of having a credentialed radon tester test the building was infeasible when compared with the cost of a low dollar amount project
 - No specific documents are needed to document that testing would be infeasible or impracticable



• Find that person here: hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/environment_energy/staff



Testing

Minnesota Radon Licensing Act – MN Statue 144.4961

- Effective January 1, 2019, a license is required annually for every person, firm, or corporation that performs a service for compensation to detect the presence of radon in the indoor atmosphere, performs laboratory analysis, or performs a service to mitigate radon in the indoor atmosphere.
- "Measurement professional" means any person who performs a test to determine the presence and concentration of radon in a building the person does not own or lease.
- "Mitigation professional" means an individual who installs or designs a radon mitigation system in a building the individual does not own or lease, or provides on-site supervision of radon mitigation and mitigation technicians.



RADON

<u>Licensing for Radon</u> <u>Professionals Home</u>

Initial Licensing

Requirements of Radon Licenses

Continuing Education and License Renewal

Forms

Radon Licensing System

Laws, Rules and Standards

RELATED TOPICS

Radon in Homes

Radon Data Portal

Radon in Schools

IAO Training for Professionals

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

EH Division Home

Initial Radon Licensing What do you need to get licensed?

All measurement and mitigation professionals need to:

- Take an approved training course(s) and pass an approved examination(s)
- Use approved testing devices
- Have a quality assurance (QA) plan
- Apply and submit a non-refundable license fee

A mitigation company applying for a license needs to provide proof of workman's compensation insurance, or a statement that workman's compensation insurance isn't required.

Expand All

What Type of License Do I Need? ➤

Training and Exams

Approved Test Devices

Types of licenses and fees

- Measurement: \$150/year
- Mitigation individual: \$250/year (includes measurement)
- Mitigation company license \$0 \$100
- Mitigation tags: \$75/system





Initial Radon Licensing What do you need to get licensed?

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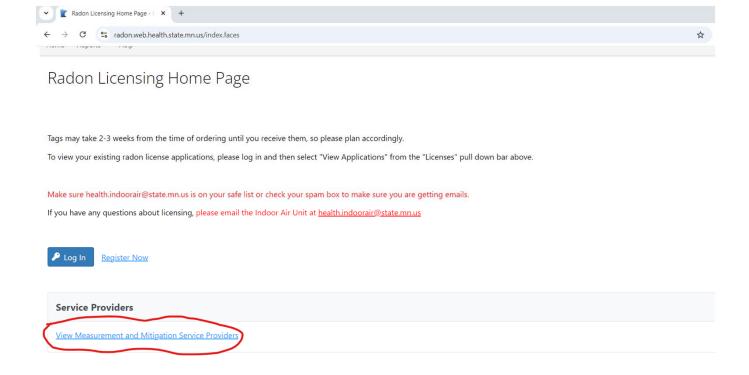
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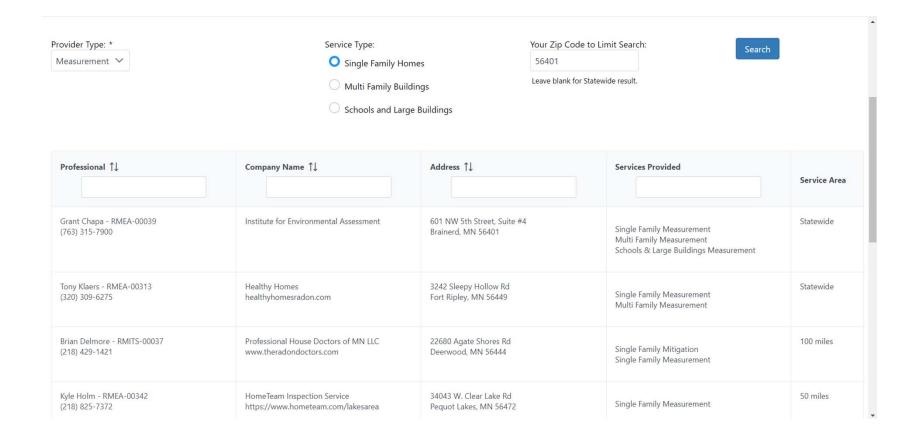
Expand All

What Type of License Do I Need? ^

Requirements

- Initial measurement course (16 hours) and pass measurement professional/specialist exam
- Initial mitigation course (24 hours) and pass mitigation professional exam
- Have a quality assurance plan
- Approved Device
- Submit Application





MN Rule 4620.7500 Incorporation by Reference

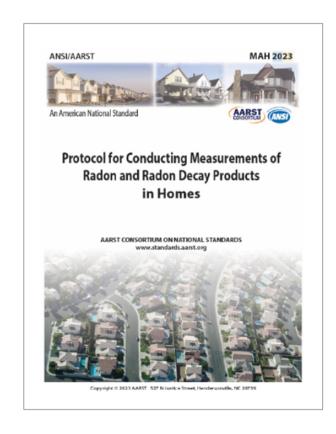
- Radon measurement professionals and radon mitigation professionals measuring radon in single-family residences must:
 - comply with ANSI/AARST Protocol for Conducting Measurements of Radon and Radon Decay Products in Homes (ANSI/AARST MAH-2014) or successor ANSI/AARST standards; and
 - test each unique foundation type.
- Radon measurement professionals and radon mitigation professionals measuring radon in multifamily buildings must comply with ANSI/AARST Standard: Protocol for Conducting Radon and Radon Decay Product Measurements in Multifamily Buildings (ANSI/AARST MAMF-2017) or successor ANSI/AARST standards.
- Radon measurement professionals and radon mitigation professionals measuring radon in schools and large buildings must comply with ANSI/AARST Protocol for Conducting Measurements of Radon and Radon Decay Products in Schools and Large Buildings (ANSI/AARST MALB-2014) or successor ANSI/AARST standards.
- Radon measurement device performance requirements are the ANSI/AARST Performance Specifications for Instrumentation Systems Designed to Measure Radon Gas in Air (ANSI/AARST MS-PC-2015) or successor ANSI/AARST standards.

ANSI/AARST Standards

- Key stakeholder groups, including analytical laboratories, federal and state regulators, radon measurement and mitigation contractors, product manufacturers, training organizations, scientists and academia, and environmental consultants, have developed and continue to maintain standards through participation on multiple committees
- Can be viewed for free at: https://standards.aarst.org/
- Give input on proposed standards changes: https://standards.aarst.org/public-review/

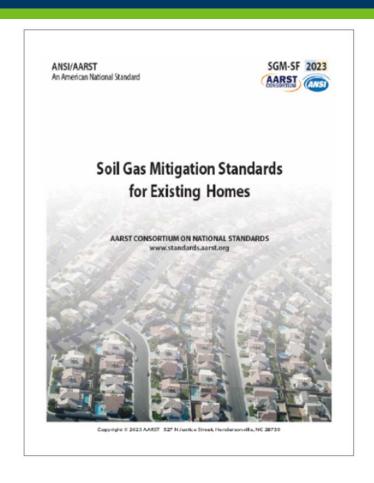


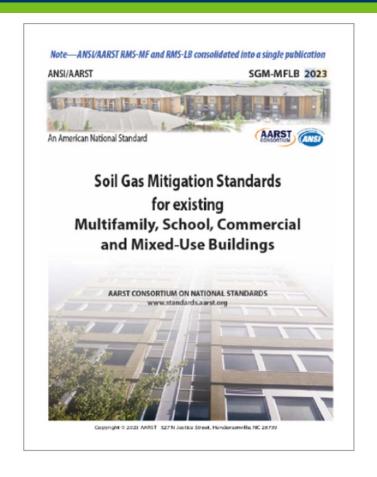
Measurement Standards





Mitigation Standards





Consumer Digital Monitors

- Becoming more common
- \$100-200
- Many are not approved by NRPP
- Concerns
 - Not calibrated
 - Accuracy over time?
- Should not be used for decisions to mitigal or not, or clear mitigation
- Could be used as a second 'tool' in addition to approved devices







Who should test?

- Licensed radon measurement professional recommended
- Owner/renter can test without license (residences)
 - Test kits available:
 - Laboratories (mn.radon.com: \$12.95)
 - County health departments
 - Hardware stores

General Home Testing Process

Initial short-term test

Result (pCi/L) Retest every 2 to 5 years with a shortterm test Perform a follow-up long-term test Perform a follow-up short-term test



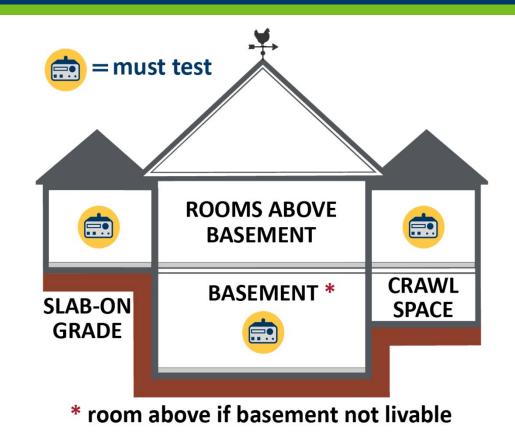
Second test (either short or long-term test)



^{*} If the initial test was 8 pCi/L or above, consider performing a long-term test.

Single Family: Rooms to test

- General
 - test lowest "lived-in" (~10 hrs per week)
- Real estate transactions
 - test lowest "livable" area(s), usually basement (finished or not)
- Licensed professionals must test for <u>each</u> foundation



Time sensitive (e.g., real estate) Simultaneous Testing

- 2 short-term tests placed side by side
 - 4-8 inches apart
 - 48 hour minimum
 - Sent in for lab analysis
 - Average two tests to determine next step



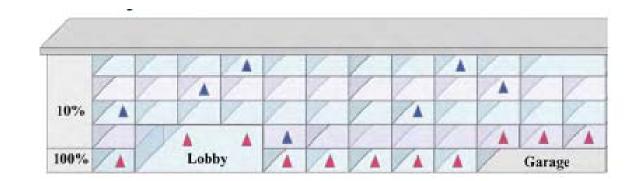
Time sensitive (e.g., real estate) Continuous Radon Monitor Testing

- Hourly readings or more frequently
- Professionally conducted
- Fastest
- Device must be calibrated annually
- 48 hour minimum
- Tamper detection features
- Use average result

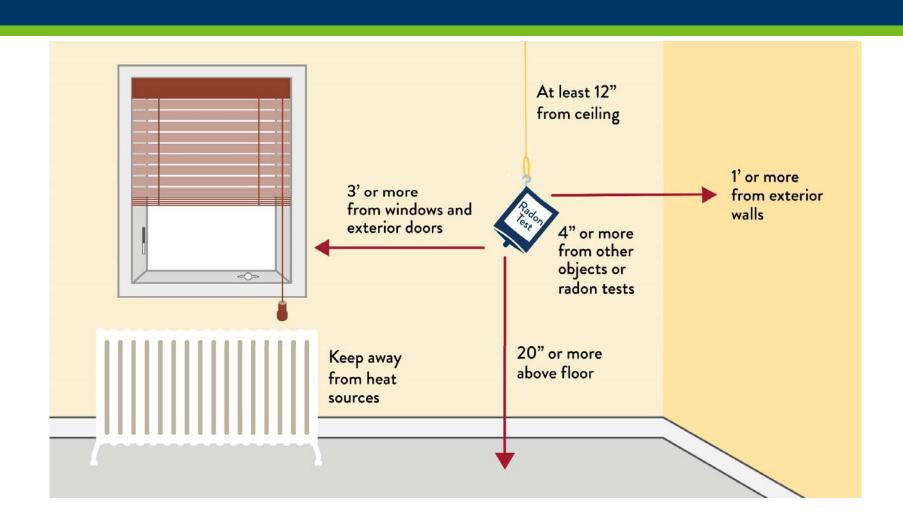


Multi-Family: Where to test

- Test all ground contact units
 - Floor/walls contact ground
 - Above crawl space, utility tunnel, parking, other nonhabitable space
- Test 10% on upper floors
- A sample of rooms will likely miss a problem room



Location in room



Closed House Conidtions (short tests)

- Exterior doors and windows closed (except normal entry/exit)
- House closed 12 hours prior to the start of the test
- Temperature set to 65-80 F
- HRV/ERV set to lowest ventilation condition
- Whole house fans not operated
- Fireplaces not operated (unless they are the primary and normal heating sources)
- No excessive use of clothes dryers, kitchen exhaust fans, and bathroom fans.
- No tampering, removal or change in the location of the test device(s).

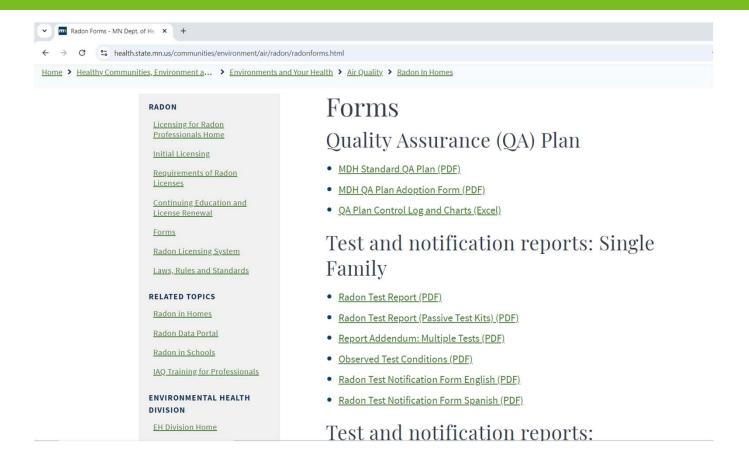
Closed House Conidtions (short tests)

All openings to the exterior (due to incomplete construction, structural defect or disrepair)	These opening to the exterior shall be closed or sealed at least 12 hours prior to initiating the test
Heating/cooling systems active and set to a normal occupied temperature	These items shall be completed or installed at least 12 hours prior to initiating the test
All windows and exterior doors installed with hardware and seals	
All insulation and exterior siding	
All wall and ceiling coverings to be completed including interior drywall or paneling; does not include decorative finishing of walls, floors or ceilings	
decorative finishing of walls, floors or ceilings All fireplaces and fireplace dampers installed	

Windows and Doors		
Broken windows or doors	Seal closed	
Interior partition or stairway doors	No special requirements	
Doors leading into a garage	Keep closed (except for momentary entry and exit).	
Garage doors		
Pet doors (includes flap openings)		
Small Appliances		
Ceiling fans and portable fans	Do not blow fans directly towards testing devices	
Window fans	Remove or seal shut and do not operate	
Humidifiers and dehumidifiers	Operate normally	
Central vacuum cleaner systems		
Crawl Spaces		
Passive crawl space vents	The condition should reflect average yearlong operation	
Crawl space humidity control systems	Operate normally	

Mechanical Systems		
Passive vents for combustion air makeup	Leave open	
Fireplace dampers	Close dampers or doors if practicable	
Combustion appliance fans	Operate normally	
Fans installed in attics to ventilate only attic air and not air within the building.		
Return air ducts from forced air heating and/or cooling systems are under concrete floors	Conduct at least one test when air handlers are active	
Mechanical Ventilation Systems that can temporarily ventilate with outdoor air for seasonal comfort or energy savings		
Window air conditioners	Operate in recirculation mode only	
Evaporative cooling systems (e.g., swamp coolers)	Do not operate and do not cover	
Energy recovery or heat recovery ventilators	Operation of permanently installed ventilation systems that bring outdoor air into the home throughout the year is permitted to continue during the test so long as: a) the system is set to the lowest ventilation condition that occurs for any season, and b) all thermostats in the building are set to normal occupiable temperatures.	

Resources



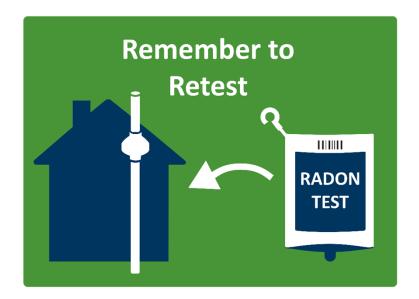
Resources

Health.indoorair@state.mn.us

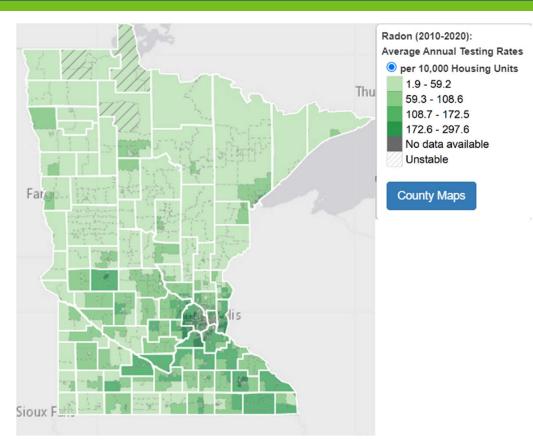
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How often should I test? General Public Advice

- Now, if you've never tested
- Every 5 years, if prior results under 4.0 pCi/L
- Every 2 years, if mitigation installed
- After:
 - Changes to heating / cooling
 - New addition to home
 - Start occupy areas not tested before (eg basement)
 - New holes in foundation
 - Changes to mitigation system



Testing Rates Vary Across State



- Average Annual Properties Tested (lab analyzed): per 10,000 housing units
- Overall about 1.5 % tested per year
 - Goal: 20%





Mitigation
MDH Indoor Air | mn.gov/radon

What if you find elevated radon level?

- Contact a radon mitigation professional
- MDH maintains a list of licensed professionals
- Follow recommended questions to identify professional





RADON

Radon in Homes

Radon Testing

Radon in Real Estate

Find a Radon Measurement Professional

Find a Radon Mitigation Professional

Radon Mitigation Systems

Financial Assistance

Radon Resistant New Construction

<u>Licensing for Radon</u> <u>Professionals</u>

Laws, Rules and Standards

Radon Poster Contest

RELATED TOPICS

Find a Radon Mitigation Professional

Individuals conducting radon mitigation in Minnesota are required to be licensed by

To find a mitigation professional, select Radon Mitigation Professional.

Radon Mitigation Professional

If you have a question about any radon-related activity, please contact MDH Indoor Air Unit with questions or to request a free inspection of a radon mitigation system installed after June 2020 at health.indoorair@state.mn.us or by phone at 651-201-4601.

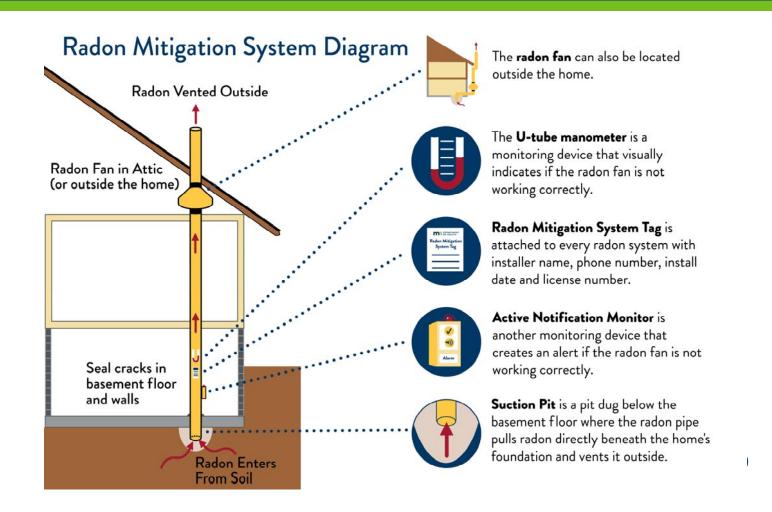
Properly designing and installing a radon mitigation system is a professional level activity. This will ensure the final system is properly located and sized to achieve optimal radon reduction and not cause any other potential issues with the structure.

Important tins

Questions to ask a Mitigation Professional

- Can you provide a list of references?
- What is your individual MDH license number?
- Is the price firm or are their hidden fees?
- Will a contract be provided?
- Will you perform diagnostics to determine the suction point location and correct pipe and fan sizes?
- Will electrical work need to be performed to power the radon mitigation system? If so, is the contractor licensed and is that cost included in the proposal? For questions regarding electrical licensing or inspection, contact the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) at dli.electricity@state.mn.us or 651-284-5026.
- Who is responsible for obtaining permits, if required?
- Is there a warranty on materials or the workmanship? If so, for how long? Do you warranty system performance?
- How will the system be evaluated?
- Will you offer the homeowner training in the radon mitigation system operations and/or troubleshooting?
- Will you guarantee that radon levels will be brought to below the Environmental

Mitigation Basics



Radon Mitigation Process

10 STEP GUIDE

to the radon mitigation process

Before mitigation

1



Radon test reveals the home has a radon problem.

2



Contact licensed radon mitigation professionals to request bids.

3



Professional does a walkthrough of the home to identify the mitigation system to install.

4



Review key questions with professional, and request a proposal.

5



Review bids and select a professional.

Before mitigation • During mitigation

After mitigation

During mitigation

6



Professional may perform diagnostic testing to ensure proper fan size and correct installation.

7



Professional seals cracks and openings in the basement.

8



Professional installs the radon mitigation system.

After mitigation

9



Professional provides a full explanation of how the system operates to the homeowner.

10



Retest the home to ensure the system has reduced radon levels.

Can't We Just Seal The Cracks?



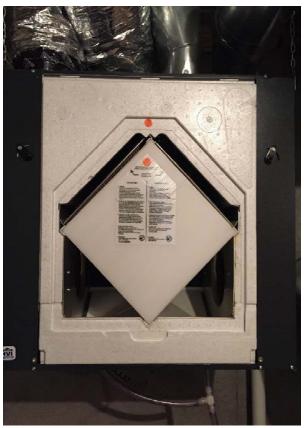
- Too many
- Many inaccessible
- New cracks open
- Other pathways (open soil, block wall)

Doesn't My Air Exchanger Take Care of the Problem?

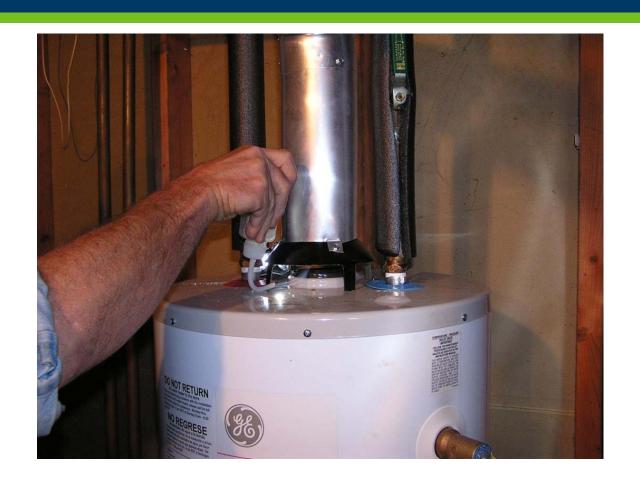
May help somewhat...IF

- Clean intake
- Filters clean/changed
- Balanced airflow





Safety: Check for back-drafting



Recommend Pressure Testing "Suck" Under Entire Home





Radon Mitigation System

Re-directs soil gasses

Piping starts under home

Fan

Discharge away









Other Parts of System

Active Notification Monitor



Labels



Pressure Measurement Device

FAN IS WORKING Indicates air is moving



FAN IS NOT WORKING
Indicates air is not moving

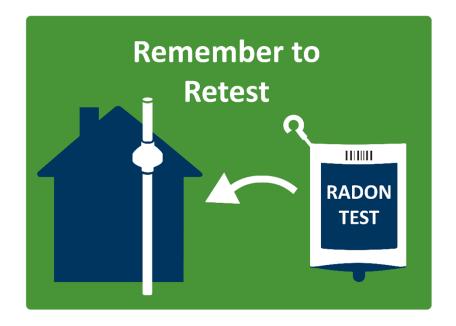


Operation, Monitoring & Maintenance Plan

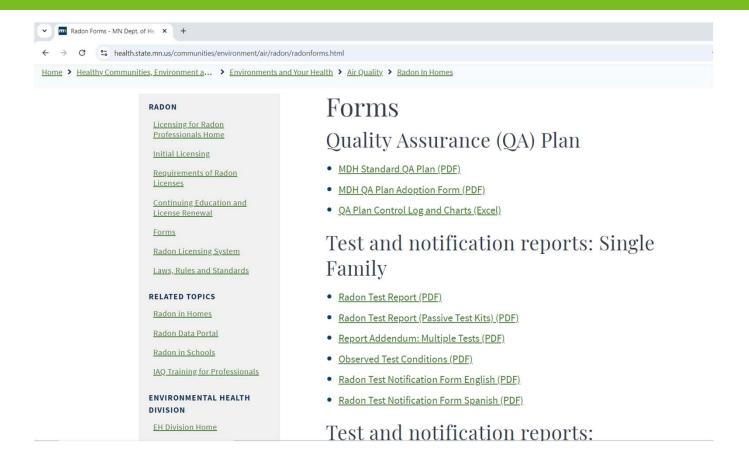


Follow-up Procedures

- Test home after mitigation
 - 24 hours to 30 days after installation
- Retest
 - every 2 years
 - new additions, HVAC changes, new openings to soil, mitigation altered/repaired
- Homeowners can request a mitigation inspection by contacting MDH (after 6/1/20)



Resources



Resources

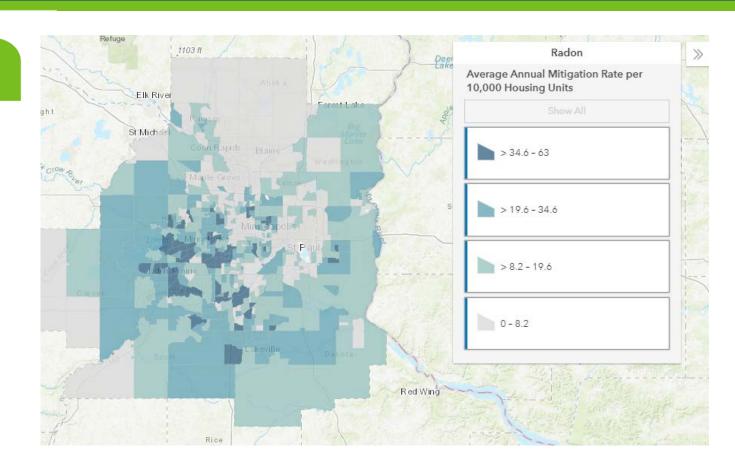
Health.indoorair@state.mn.us

651-201-4601

Mitigation Varies Across Metro

Metro Radon Mitigation

- Mitigation and testing associated with:
- ↑poverty
- ↓median home values
- ↑ percent of rental properties



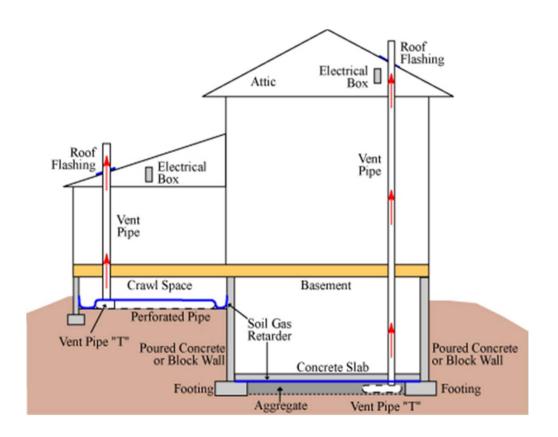




Laws & Policies

New Homes Must be Built "Radon Resistant"

- Passive in code since 2009
- Passive (required)
 - No fan
 - ~40% reduction
 - 35,663 housing units built (10/1/20-9/30/21)
- Active (recommended)
 - Radon fan
 - 90+% reduction



Aggregate Under the Slab





Vent Pipe and Soil Gas Retarder





What's Next?

- 1) Add fan during construction, or
- 2) Test for radon after occupancy (if elevated, activate the system)





Radon in Home Sales

- No testing or mitigation required
 - Some lenders and relocation companies have policies that require it
- Testing and mitigation can be done (eg, during home inspection)
 - Use licensed pros



Disclosure and Notification Required in Home Sales

Effective January 1, 2014 seller must

- Disclose:
 - Tested?
 - Result
 - Mitigation?
- Provide:
 - radon warning statement
 - "Radon in Real Estate Transaction" publication



Radon Warning Statement & 2-page Publication

"The Minnesota Department of Health strongly recommends that ALL homebuyers have an indoor radon test performed prior to purchase or taking occupancy, and recommends having the radon levels mitigated if elevated radon concentrations are found. Elevated radon concentrations can easily be reduced by a qualified, certified, or licensed, if applicable, radon mitigator.

Every buyer of any interest in residential real property is notified that the property may present exposure to dangerous levels of indoor radon gas that may place the occupants at risk of developing radon-induced lung cancer. Radon, a Class A human carcinogen, is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers and the second leading cause overall. The seller of any interest in residential real property is required to provide the buyer with any information on radon test results of the dwelling."

Radon in Real Estate Transactions



All Minnesota homes can have dangerous levels of radon gas. Radon is a colorless, odorless and tasteless radioactive gas that can seep into homes from the soil. When inhaled, its radioactive particles can damage the lungs. Long-term exposure to radon can lead to lung cancer. About 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States are caused by radon.

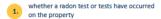
The only way to know how much radon gas has entered the home is to conduct a radon test. MDH estimates 2 in 5 homes exceed the 4.0 pCi/L (picocuries per liter) action level. Whether a home is old or new, any home can have high levels of radon

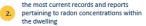
The purpose of this publication is to educate and inform potential home buyers of the risks of radon exposure, and how to test for and reduce radon as part of real estate transactions.

Disclosure Requirements

Effective January 1, 2014, the Minnesota Radon Awareness Act requires specific disclosure and education be provided to potential home buyers during residential real estate transactions in

Minnesota. Before signing a purchase agreement to levels of radon, prolonged exposure, and sell or transfer residential real property, the seller shall provide this publication and shall disclose in writing to the buver:





a description of any radon levels, mitigation, or remediation

information on the radon mitigation system, if a system was installed

a radon warning statement

Radon Facts

How dangerous is radon? Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers, and the second leading cause overall. Your risk for lung cancer increases with higher whether or not you are a current smoker or

Where is your greatest exposure to radon? For whether a radon test or tests have occurred most Minnesotans, your greatest exposure is at home where radon can concentrate indoors.

> What is the recommended action based on my results? If the average radon in the home is at or above 4.0 pCi/L the home's radon level should be reduced. Also, consider mitigating if radon levels are between 2.0 pCi/L and 3.9 pCi/L. Any amount of radon, even below the recommended action level, carries some risk.

Radon Warning Statement

"The Minnesota Department of Health strongly recommends that ALL homebuyers have an indoor radon test performed prior to purchase or taking occupancy, and recommends having the radon levels mitigated if elevated radon concentrations are found. Elevated radon concentrations can easily be reduced by a qualified, certified, or licensed, if applicable, radon mitigator.

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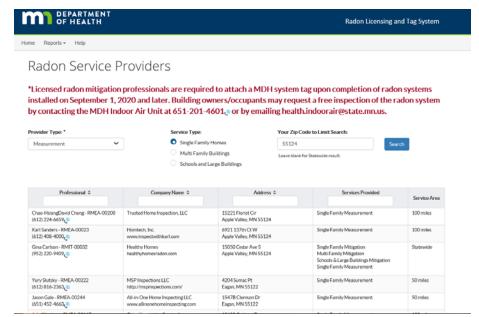


Licensure for Service Providers

- License required:
 - If you don't own or lease the property
 - Professionals that measure for radon (home inspectors, consultants, etc.)
 - Professionals that mitigate radon (plumbers, HVAC contractors, etc.)

MN Radon Licensing

- Is contractor licensed to test for radon?
 - check MDH site
 - ask for proof of current MDH license
 - not same as certification
- Radon pros can do both mitigation and measurement (if licensed for both)
- Homeowners can request a mitigation inspection by contacting MDH (after 6/1/20)



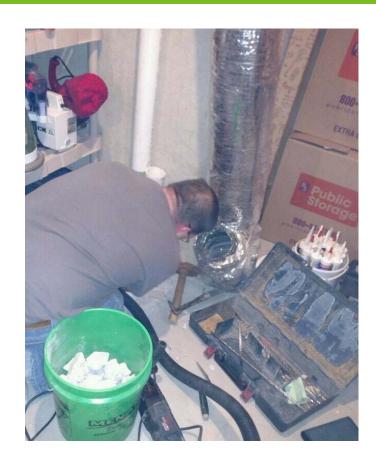
How to get licensed

- Measurement
 - 16 hour training
 - Pass exam
 - Quality assurance plan
 - Apply online (\$150 per year)
 - Renew with 8 hrs CE per year

- Mitigation (includes measurement license)
 - 16 hr measurement + 24 hr mitigation training
 - Pass 2 exams
 - QA plan
 - Apply online (\$250 per year)
 - Company license likely (\$0 or \$100)
 - Renew with 12 hrs CE per year

Licensee requirements

- Use approved devices and labs
- Follow quality assurance plan for measurement
- Follow AARST-ANSI standards
- Report data quarterly to MDH
- Notify MDH of any changes to license
- Maintain records for at least 3 years
- Make available information to MDH (for audits and inspections)
- Affix MDH Radon Mitigation System Tag



Numbers of Credentials Annually

- ~420 measurement pros
- •~140 mitigation pros
- •13 labs
- -8,000 9,000 tags

Other Laws

- Public Schools
 - Testing not required
 - If choose to test, must follow state's testing plan, report data to MDH and board
- MDH data
 - Considered non-public, can't be shared generally

Other Laws

- New construction and major renovations of state buildings
 - If funded from bond proceeds must follow the state's building design guidelines, which currently include radon control requirements.
- Child Care, Rental Housing
 - No requirements to test, mitigate or disclose

MN Housing Policy mnhousing.gov/sites/multifamily/radonmitigation

- All multifamily project receiving funding from MN Housing must:
 - Test using certified and MDH licensed individual
 - Follow AARST testing and mitigation standard for multifamily housing (including resident notifications)
 - Submit radon report at project phases
 - No exterior radon systems allowed
 - Test regardless of refi includes rehab
 - Test regardless of underground garage
 - At or above 4 pCi/L→ mitigate
 - If refi with rehab, can mitigate prior to closing or in rehab process

MN Housing Policy

- New construction
 - No Underground garage > build passive (building code)
 - Test all ground contact plus at least 10% of unit on upper floor.
 - If elevated, activate passive system or install system

MN Housing Policy

- Substantial Rehab
 - Install passive sub-slab system (building code)
 - Test all ground contact plus at least 10% of unit on upper floor.
 - If elevated, activate system

MN Housing Policy

- Moderate rehab
 - Test preconstruction (if won't influence radon) or post construction (if will influence)
 - Some exception may apply, contact MN Housing
 - If elevated, install active radon system

Federal Lending Policies

- HUD multifamily loans
 - 2020 Multifamily Accelerated Processing Guide (chapter 9.6.3)
 - Testing with licensed pro, follow standard
 - https://www.hud.gov/program offices/administration/hudclips/guidebooks/hsg-GB4430
- FHFA
 - Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac multifamily loans
 - Require testing –Minnesota state requirements must be met

MDH Radon PSA



Also, in Spanish, Hmong, Somali, including 6-minute versions available

MDH Awareness Efforts

- 500-600 Spots, 20 million gross impressions
 - TV (15 Sec): 4 major channels
 - Radio (15 Sec): pop, talk, public radio
- On-line banners: Twincities.com
- 10 15 Digital Billboards
- Press release (January)
- Community events, trainings



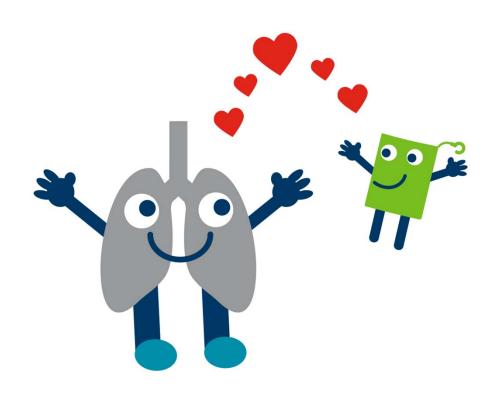
MDH Outreach with Partners

- 66 110 partners per year
- Distribute 4,000 10,000 test kits and brochures
 - Also: example articles, social media, press release, joint presentations, media interview, training
- State master contract (Air Chek): \$5.35 per kit
- How can we partner with you?



Create a Healthier Home: Test...Fix...Prevent Lung Cancer

- Minnesota has high radon levels
 (2 in 5 homes elevated)
- EPA action level is 4.0 pCi/L
- Testing/mitigation can be done
- Use licensed professionals (if you don't own or lease or under other policy)
- Know and follow policies and laws



Radon Mitigation Ask This Old House S:4 E:14



For More Information

MDH Indoor Air Unit

651-201-4601

health.indoorair@state.mn.us

mn.gov/radon

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

epa.gov/radon