



RADON: THE LEADING CAUSE OF LUNG CANCER DEATHS IN NON-SMOKERS

RADON is a colorless and odorless gas found in nearly all soils. Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. and is responsible for at least 22,000 deaths each year. Radon moves from underground into homes where it may accumulate to dangerous levels. Sadly, there are no symptoms of radon exposure prior to the development of lung cancer.

Midwestern states have the greatest number of homes with elevated radon. Recent testing of hundreds of homes in La Crosse County found more than 30% of dwellings exceeded the acceptable level (4.0 pCi/L). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Health & Family Services recommend every home be tested for radon.

Radon testing is simple and inexpensive. Do-it-yourself test kits can be purchased at La Crosse County Health Department for \$10.00. Short term detectors are placed in the home for 2 days and are useful for screening purposes. Long term detectors are used to confirm any short term tests that exceed 4 pCi/L. Long term detectors are placed in the home for 90 to 365 days.

Elevated radon can be reduced to safe levels by installing a radon mitigation system. Radon mitigation should be done by trained professionals who are certified by National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP). More information about certified individuals can be obtained by visiting the website www.lowradon.org. Installed Radon mitigation systems usually cost \$1400 - \$1600.

For more information about testing and mitigation, consult a [Wisconsin Radon Information Center](#) at 608-789-7816 or visit www.lowradon.org. There are 15 Radon Information Centers located throughout Wisconsin. The Southwest Radon Information Center is located within La Crosse County Health Department and serves La Crosse and Monroe Counties. A nationally certified radon measurement and mitigation professional is on staff and available for free consultation at 608-789-7816.

For more information visit:

http://county-radon.info/WI/La_Crosse.html

[EPA Radon link](#)