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Radon in Maine

A Serious Hidden Danger to Family Health

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Radon Tipsheet #1

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Living in a home with high radon levels is a major risk for lung cancer.

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.

Any house can have a radon problem. It doesn't matter if it's old or new, or where it's located. The only way to know if your house has a problem is to test.

You can test your air and well water with simple test kits purchased from Maine registered testing labs for about $60 or less. Or, you can hire a registered radon tester. If you have a well, you need to test it along with your air. To find out where to buy test kits or to hire a registered tester:

- **www.MaineRadiationControl.org**
- **1-800-232-0842**
- Use the Tipsheets: #2 *Testing Your Home for Radon* and #5 *Working with a Registered Radon Tester.*

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

Radon problems can be fixed. Once you test and know your radon numbers, you can plan the next steps. In most houses, 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.

Fixing a radon problem should be done by an expert—a registered contractor. In Maine, contractors are registered separately to fix problems with radon in air and problems with radon in well water. Use the website below to get a list of registered contractors. Use Tipsheets #6 and #7 about radon treatment systems.

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

- Check this website: **www.MaineRadiationControl.org**
- For advice: **1-800-232-0842 • radon.dhhs@maine.gov • TTY: 800-606-0215**

Department of Health and Human Services