

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Radon—A Silent Killer

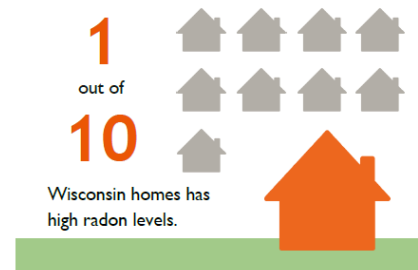
Protecting our Community's Health in their Home

EAU CLAIRE, WI – January 4, 2019 - You can't see it, smell it or taste it, but it puts your family at risk. Over 2,900 Wisconsin residents die from lung cancer each year, with 488 calculated to be radon-related lung cancer deaths. Radon-induced lung cancer is largely preventable. **The first step is to test your home for radon!**

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from the soil beneath and around some of our homes. Radon is present at elevated levels in some homes here in Eau Claire County. Elevated levels create a risk to the homes' residents. About 1 out of 10 Wisconsin homes has high radon levels. Radon test results of over 600 homes in the Eau Claire area, tested between 2016 and 2018 have found that **32%** of homes have radon levels that exceed the United States Environmental Protection Administration (USEPA) safety standard of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L).

"There is no way to predict the level of radon in your home. The only way to know is to test." says Elizabeth Paulson, Environmental Health Specialist for the Eau Claire City-County Health Department.

Radon has no smell, taste or color, and therefore, it is impossible to detect with the human senses. It can be easily measured with a simple and inexpensive test that a homeowner can do themselves.



Take action!

- Radon Test kits can be purchased for \$10 from the Eau Claire City-County Health Department, which is located on the ground floor of the Eau Claire County Courthouse at 720 Second Avenue. If you decide to test your home, use only test kits approved by the U.S.E.P.A.
- If elevated radon levels are found in a home, the home can be fixed at a reasonable cost. A trained and certified contractor should do all the contracting work.
- For more information on radon and radon testing, please contact the West Central Regional Radon Information Center at the Eau Claire City-County Health Department at 715-839-4718.
- Visit the Wisconsin Dept. of Health website for more information: www.lowradon.org.

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