



# radon

A brief guide on how to keep you  
safe from radon

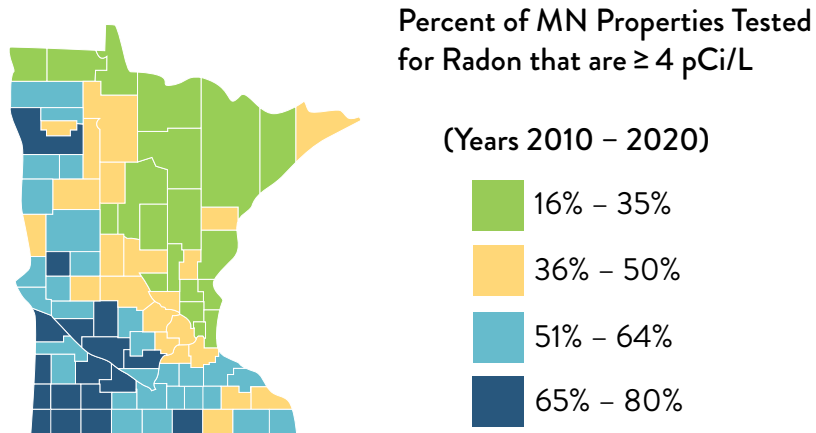


## What is radon?

Radon is a colorless and odorless gas found in the soil and common throughout Minnesota. Because soil is porous, radon moves up from the soil and into the home. The gas can accumulate in the air we breathe becoming a health concern.

## Why is it a health concern?

Radon gas decays into small particles that are radioactive and when we inhale these small particles they can damage the lung. Exposure to radon over a long period of time can lead to lung cancer. In Minnesota, more than **two in five homes have radon levels that pose a significant health risk.**



## What is a safe level of radon?

Any radon level poses some health risk and it is not possible to reduce radon to zero. The best approach is to lower the radon level as much as possible. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set the action level at 4 pCi/L (picocuries of radon per liter of air). **At 4 pCi/L or higher it is recommended a radon mitigation system is installed to reduce the radon level.**

## What can I do?

MDH recommends all Minnesotans test their home for radon. A radon test is the only way to find out how much radon is in your home. You can test your home yourself or hire a licensed professional. The result from a properly performed test will help you decide if you need to reduce your home's radon levels.

### Test for radon



The two basic radon tests available are a short-term and a long-term test. **Do a short-term test first.** Your local health department or government agency may offer test kits at reduced prices. Information on where to find radon test kits can be found at the MDH website. When buying a home consider hiring a licensed radon professional to perform the test. The back of this guide provides recommended actions to take based on the test results.

### Reduce radon – if high



If radon is high, hire a licensed radon professional to install a radon mitigation system. Radon mitigation systems use a fan to pull air from the soil and exhaust it outdoors. All systems should reduce radon below the EPA action level of 4 pCi/L. Once installed, the licensed professional will place a tag on the system. Call MDH if you have questions or wish to request an inspection.

### Find more information



[mn.gov/radon](https://mn.gov/radon) – Information on radon and where to find radon test kits.

[mn.gov/radonpro](https://mn.gov/radonpro) – List of licensed radon professionals.

# Radon Testing Guidelines

— Start with a short-term test —

## Understanding your first test result

Result (pCi/L)	Action
Less than 2	Retest every 2 to 5 years
Between 2 to 8	Do a second test, either a short or long-term test
8 or greater	Do another short-term test

## Understanding your second test result

Result (pCi/L)	Action
Less than 2	Retest every 2 to 5 years
Between 2 to 4	Consider mitigating
4 or greater	Mitigate

*Deciding to mitigate should be based on the long-term test result or the average of two short-term tests.*

*In real estate transactions, the decision to mitigate should be based on a continuous monitor test or the average of two short-term tests done side by side.*

Indoor Air Unit  
PO Box 64975  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975  
651-201-4601  
health.indoorair@state.mn.us  
mn.gov/radon

Updated 9/2022