

Indoor Radon Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Testing for Radon

1. I would like to test for radon in my house. Where can I get an inexpensive do-it-yourself (DIY) radon test kit?

California residents, inexpensive DIY radon test kits can be obtained by calling the toll-free number 800-324-5928. After calling the toll-free number, press 1 and follow the instructions to purchase a California radon test kit. The cost for the radon test kit is \$7.95. Alternatively, a California radon test kit can be purchased by submitting a request, along with credit card payment, at www.drhomeair.com beginning on the following webpage:

https://secure.flipmedia.com/apalab_secure/drha_order_carw5.html

Disable all pop-up blockers on your computer prior to entering data on the order form.

2. I would like to test for radon at a house in connection to a real estate transaction. How should I proceed?

For radon testing connected to a real estate transaction, a California certified radon tester must perform the test. A list of California certified radon testers can be found by clicking the Testers (PDF) link on the following webpage:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/environhealth/Pages/RadonServiceProviders.aspx>

Granite Counter Tops

1. Do granite counter tops contribute significant amounts of radon in houses?

The probability of getting significant amounts of radon from granite counter tops is very low. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not believe sufficient data exist to conclude that the types of granite commonly used in counter tops are significantly increasing indoor radon levels. EPA believes the principal source of radon in homes is from soil gas that is drawn indoors from outside.

2. How do I test my granite counter tops for radon?

If you are concerned about the possibility of your granite counter tops adding to or causing increased radon in your home, you can have your home tested by a certified tester or you can test it yourself by using DIY radon test kits.

A list of California certified radon testers can be found by clicking on the Testers (PDF) link at the following webpage:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/environhealth/Pages/RadonServiceProviders.aspx>

To test for radon from your granite counter tops yourself, purchase three radon test kits and follow the DIY Instructions for Testing Granite Counter Tops described below.

Inexpensive DIY radon test kits can be obtained by calling the toll-free number 800-324-5928. After calling the toll-free number, press 1 and follow the instructions to purchase a California radon test kit. The cost for the radon test kit is \$7.95. Alternatively, a California radon test kit can be obtained by submitting a request, along with credit card payment, at www.drhomeair.com beginning on the following webpage:

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Disable all pop-up blockers on your computer prior to entering data on the order form.

DIY Instructions for Testing Granite Counter Tops

Set one test kit approximately three feet from the counter but not directly on the counter; set one test kit at the boundary of the kitchen and the adjoining room; and set one test kit in a room farthest from the kitchen (preferably not a bathroom). Record the serial numbers of each test kit and the locations so you know where each of the test results came from.

The results of these three tests will indicate whether radon is higher in the vicinity of the granite counter tops as compared to the remainder of your home.

EPA's recommended action level is 4 picocuries per liter (4 pCi/L). If your house has 4 pCi/L or higher, EPA recommends that you take action to reduce the level of radon.

Radon in Water

1. Has radon ever been a problem with any water sources or supplies in California?

Radon has not been a problem in California water sources and supplies. Water provided by public water systems is required to meet EPA and California Department of Public Health contaminant limitations. Radon is more likely to enter a home from private well water (groundwater).

2. How do I test my home's water for radon?

If you are concerned about the possibility of significant amounts of radon in your home's water, you can test the water yourself by using a DIY radon test kit. The radon test kit for water is M Series WTR - Radon in Water Test Kit. A DIY radon test kit for water can be obtained by submitting a request, along with credit card payment, at www.drhomeair.com beginning on the following webpage:

https://secure.flipmedia.com/apalab_secure/drha_order_carw5.html

Disable all pop-up blockers on your computer prior to entering data on the order form.

Radon and Real Estate

1. Should I test a house for radon before purchasing the house?

EPA recommends that all houses should be tested for radon. For more information about radon and real estate, see the EPA booklet "Home Buyer's and Seller's Guide to Radon" on the following webpage:

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/hmbyguid.html#3.b>

For radon and real estate disclosures in California go to the following web page:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/environhealth/Pages/RadonRealEstate.aspx>

Certification as a Radon Service Provider

1. What are the requirements for becoming a certified radon mitigator?

To become a certified radon mitigator, the following four requirements must be met:

- a. Be a California contractor with at least one of the following contractor license types: B, C20, C36, or D64; a requirement of the California Department of Consumer Affairs, Contractors State License Board (CSLB). The CSLB web page is:

<http://www.cslb.ca.gov>

- b. Complete an approved mitigator training program.
- c. Obtain certification by one of the two certifying boards.
- d. Submit a completed Radon Certification Verification Form, along with a copy of the certification from the certifying board, to the California Department of Public Health, Indoor Radon Program.

For more detailed information on the requirements for becoming a radon service provider, see the following webpage:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/environhealth/Pages/RadonCertification.aspx>

2. What are the requirements for becoming a certified radon tester?

To become a certified radon tester, the following three requirements must be met:

- a. Complete an approved tester training program.
- b. Obtain certification by one of the two certifying boards.
- c. Submit a completed Radon Certification Verification Form, along with a copy of the certification from the certifying board, to the California Department of Public Health, Indoor Radon Program.

For more detailed information on the requirements for becoming a radon service provider, see the following webpage:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/environhealth/Pages/RadonCertification.aspx>

3. What are the requirements for becoming a certified radon laboratory?

To become a certified radon laboratory, the following three requirements must be met:

- a. Complete an approved training program.
- b. Obtain certification by one of the two certifying boards.
- c. Submit a completed Radon Certification Verification Form, along with a copy of the certification from the certifying board, to the California Department of Public Health, Indoor Radon Program.

For more detailed information on the requirements for becoming a radon service provider, see the following webpage:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/environhealth/Pages/RadonCertification.aspx>

Radon Requirements for Mining Operations

1. What are the requirements for radon with mining operations?

Radon exposure with mining operations is regulated by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) of the United States Department of Labor (DOL). For more information about radon requirements for mining operations, go to MSHA's website at:

<http://www.msha.gov/>

Radon Publications

1. Where can I get written materials about Radon?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has several publications on radon, including booklets, brochures, and maps. These publications can be ordered or printed from the following EPA website:

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/index.html>