

# The Town of Greenwich

## Department of Health Laboratory

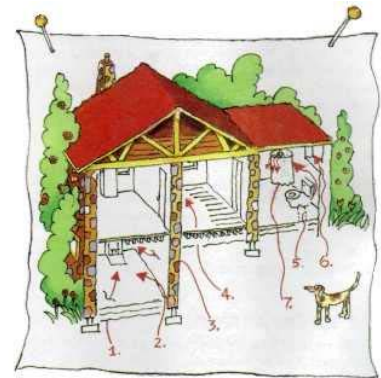


### Home Radon Testing Program

The Greenwich Department of Health continues to be concerned about the increased risk of developing lung cancer in persons who are exposed to elevated levels of radon in their home. Radon is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless radioactive gas that occurs in nature. The greater the exposure to this gas, the greater the risk of developing lung cancer. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after tobacco use.

Lung cancer can result when the radon decay products become trapped in the lungs; as these products break down further, radiation is released which is capable of damaging lung tissue, leading to cancer.

Radon can pass through small spaces in the rock on which a house is built, and also can seep into the home through dirt floors and cracks in walls. It can enter the water in private wells and be released into a home when the water is used.



The Greenwich Department of Health encourages all residents to test their homes for radon. Many of the environmental health issues we are faced with are problems with which we have little or no control. But thankfully, in the case of radon, we can take full advantage of all that is known about its health effects and test for it.



To test for radon levels in your home, visit the Department of Health Laboratory on the ground floor of Town Hall. The Laboratory personnel will show you how to sample for radon.

#### **Radon in Air - \$37.00**

To test for radon in air, place the measuring device in the lowest level of your house suitable for occupancy. Open the device by turning the top counter clockwise to release the spring. Be sure to record the time and date on the form provided. Leave the

device for 3 to 5 days twenty inches above the floor and at least four inches from away from a wall. Close the device by pushing the spring down and turning the top clockwise to screw it in place. Record the time and date and return it to the laboratory.

### **Radon in Water - \$37.00**

To test for radon in water, take the sample from the kitchen tap. Turn the faucet on to a slow stream and let it flow into a deep bowl without agitation or bubbling. Let the water run freely for five minutes. Open the sample bottle and place it into the bowl allowing the water in. Screw the cap on the bottle underwater making sure to avoid creating air bubbles in the sample. Record the time and date of the sample on the form provided. Return the sample to the laboratory as soon as possible.

Results from either test will be mailed to you in three to five working days. If your radon level is high, the results will be accompanied by a list of state approved radon remediation companies. One free re-test will be offered if you wish. If you have questions on radon or about the sampling procedure, please contact the laboratory at 622-7843.

The average indoor radon level is 1.3 pCi/l (picocuries per liter). The EPA recommended action level is 4.0 pCi/l. The average concentration of radon on outdoor air is .4 pCi/l.



### **For Additional Radon Information:**

EPA Radon website  
[www.epa.gov/iaq/radon/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/radon/index.html)

State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Indoor Air Program (860) 509- 7367  
Town of Greenwich Department of Health Division of Environmental Health - 622-7838  
National Safety Council (800) SOS-RADON