

How to Test for Radon

Preparing to Test



Radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in the ground. Over time, breathing in radon can cause lung cancer. **You can't see or smell radon. Testing is the only way to know if you are being exposed to high levels.**

Test for radon in places where people spend a lot of time: homes, childcare centers, schools, and workplaces.

Get a short-term test kit

- Radon test kits are inexpensive, accurate, and widely available.
- You can purchase a test kit at reduced cost at your local health department or regional [Radon Information Center](#).
- Test kits are also available online or at most hardware stores for around \$25.

Looking for a long-term test kit? Radon Information Centers also carry these kits at a reduced cost.



Scan the QR code to find test kit pick up locations or visit www.lowradon.org

Learn how to test

Watch this [video demonstration](#) showing how to conduct a short-term radon test. Be sure to still follow instructions that come with your radon test kit.

Scan the QR code, or visit <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/radon/radon-results.htm>



How to Test for Radon

A step-by-step guide for testing your home or building for radon.



Follow the steps to testing:

A before, during, and after checklist

Before testing

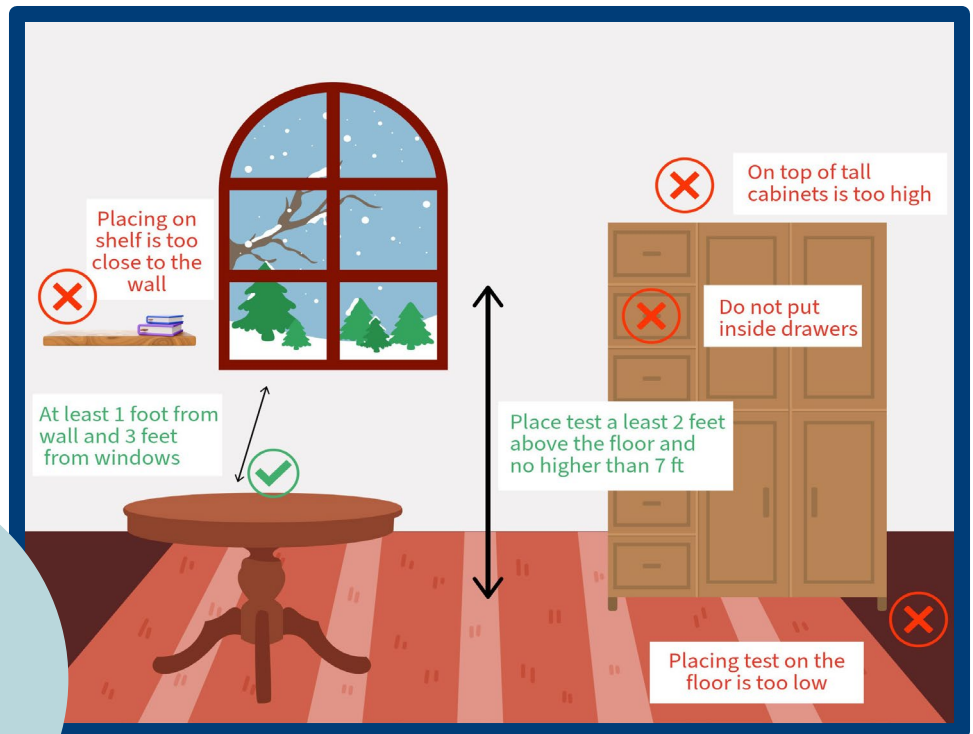
- Read the instructions that come with the radon test kit.
- Close exterior doors and windows for at least 12 hours before starting the test.** You can still enter and exit your home as normal.

During testing

- Remove your radon test from the packaging—this begins your test!
- Fill out the form that comes with your kit—**be sure to record your start date and time.**
- Place the test on the lowest livable level of your home where you spend at least seven hours a week. Do not place the test in areas with high humidity (bathrooms, kitchens, or crawlspace), or in direct sunlight.
- Place the test 2 to 7 feet above the floor, on a table or surface that is at least 3 feet from an exterior door, window, or air vents.
- Place the test on a flat surface with the paper side facing upwards.
- Make a reminder to yourself to end your test** at the appropriate time. Refer to your test kit's instructions, but end times are typically 48-96 hours after you start the test.



Check the placement of your radon test kit!



After ending your test

- Stop your test within the appropriate timeframe. Test kits exposed for too long or for not enough time are invalid.
- Complete the rest of the form and be sure to record your end date and time. **Filling out as much information as you can is important for understanding your radon risk.**
- Seal up the radon test with the form. Check whether your kit comes with a pre-paid postage mailer. If it does not, you will need to pay for shipping. If the test you purchased requires lab fees, be sure to include those funds.
- Mail the package as soon as possible. Most labs recommend using a shipping service that includes tracking and will deliver within 10 days.



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Understanding your results

Understanding your test results

Your radon test results will come to you from the lab—usually by mail or email. If you need support understanding your test results, call 1-888-LOW-RADON (1-888-569-7236) to speak with a radon expert based in a Wisconsin state or local health department.

Less than 4 pCi/L*	Your home has low radon levels. You do not need mitigation at this time. Re-test every 2 years or sooner if you have a home renovation. Radon levels can change over time.
Between 4-7 pCi/L	Do a second radon test. This second test can be a short or long-term test.** If the average of the two results is greater than 4 pCi/L, we recommend hiring a certified radon contractor to mitigate.
8 pCi/L and above	Do a second short-term radon test. If the average of the two results is greater than 4 pCi/L, we recommend hiring a certified radon contractor to mitigate.

* Radon is measured in picocuries per liter, which are abbreviated pCi/L.

**A short-term test measures radon levels for two to four days and is a quick way to screen your home for radon. Long-term tests measure radon levels for a minimum of 91 days (typically 6-12 months). They are the best way to estimate the annual average of radon in the home. Long-term testing should include both heating and non-heating seasons.

Radon mitigation

If your radon test results are above 4 pCi/L, we recommend hiring a certified contractor to install a radon mitigation system. A contractor will put a pipe in your home or building's foundation. The pipe is connected to a small fan that vents radon gas to outside the home. The system is simple and effective. Radon mitigation systems can reduce indoor radon to below 2 pCi/L, reducing the risk of lung cancer.



How to Mitigate for Radon



Scan the QR code to learn how a mitigation system works, or visit www.lowradon.org



Hiring a radon contractor

The State of Wisconsin does not require contractors performing radon measurement or mitigation work to be state licensed or nationally certified. However, DHS recommends finding a radon contractor through a nationally certified radon professional association—the **National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP)** or the **National Radon Safety Board (NRSB)**. Most homes can be fixed for about the same cost as other common home repairs, like painting or having a new hot water heater installed. The average cost for a contractor to install a radon mitigation system is \$1,000-\$2,000.

Follow these steps to find a contractor:

1. Navigate to the [NRPP](#) or [NRSB](#) websites.
2. Use the dropdown to select "Certified Mitigation Specialist."
3. Type in your zip code. You may be asked to enter your radius preference.
4. Click to search.

When the search results appear, you'll see a list of professionals' names and contact information. Contacting at least three companies for a cost estimate can help you make an informed decision. If you have questions about hiring a radon mitigator, call 1-888-LOW-RADON (1-888-569-7236).

