

Reducing Radon in Tribal Homes



General overview of the Partnership

- This project came out of the blue at the beginning of last October.
- The UW folks reached out to our clinic first about this project.





Bad River Tribal Radon Program



In partnership with
Carbone Cancer Center
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH



Test Kit Number: _____ Date Test Kit Distributed: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Do you live within the boundaries of the Bad River Reservation? Yes No

Do you live in a Bad River Housing Authority Home? Yes No

Have you tested your home for Radon before? Yes No

- If Yes, when was the last time your home was tested? _____
- If Yes, what were that results? _____

Do you have a mitigation system? Yes No

- If Yes, how old is it? _____
- If Yes, is it operating well? _____

(If no, give them Zakk Zander's contact information)

Office Use:

Date test kit distributed	Date test kit started	Date test kit ended
Date mailed	Date test results received	Results
Notes:		

Outreach events

- We hosted a lunch and learn for the clinic staff to introduce them to the project That night we also held a community listening session
- Elder lunch and Breakfast
- Fortunately this year was our biannual Natural Resources open house.





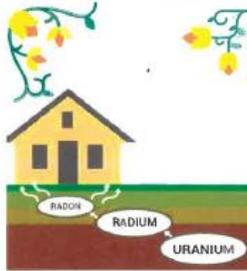
Bad River & Radon

What Community Members Should Know

You **CANNOT** see or smell radon. You **CANNOT** know if radon is in your home until you test it. Luckily, testing is **EASY** and **FREE**.

The University of Wisconsin and Bad River Health & Wellness Center have partnered to offer **FREE radon testing and mitigation** to Native American homes within the boundaries of the Bad River Reservation.

What is radon? Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that can build up in indoor spaces, such as homes.



- Radon gas comes from the natural radioactive breakdown of uranium in the ground.
- Radon gas can enter a building through cracks in its foundation.
- Radon levels of 4 units (picocuries per liter) or more are harmful to health and require mitigation (fixing).
- Radon mitigation systems direct radon gas away from homes to lower indoor radon levels.



A radon mitigation system installed on a home.

How does radon affect health? Breathing in high levels of radon over long periods of time can increase a person's risk of developing lung cancer.

#1 Radon exposure is the **#1 cause** of lung cancer in people who don't smoke.

10x If you are exposed to high radon *and* smoke, your risk for developing lung cancer is **10 times greater**.

7% of Bad River Tribal homes had high radon in past tests. Many Bad River homes have not yet been tested.

Sources: Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services, CDC, Wisconsin Cancer Collaborative, Bad River Tribe

HAVE QUESTIONS? WANT A FREE TEST KIT?

This opportunity has limited funds and is only available while funds last.

To obtain a free test kit, pick one up from the Bad River Health & Wellness Center or contact **Nona Crowe** at n.crowe@badriverhwc.com or 715-682-7133 ext. 4812.

For questions about radon, testing, or mitigation in the Bad River community, contact:
Zakk Zander, Bad River Radon Specialist
AirQualitytech@badriver-nsn.gov | 715-682-7133 ext. 1553.

For questions about the project with the University, contact:
Dr. Noelle LoConte, Project Lead
ns3@medicine.wisc.edu | 608-265-5883

Outreach activities

- Nixle
 - Boozhoo this is a reminder to place your Radon kits if you have not already. They should be deployed for 3–7 days then returned by mail
- Four days later we sent a reminder
 - Boozhoo this is a reminder to pick up your Radon kits if you have not already. They should be deployed for 3–7 days then returned by mail
- Door to door
 - Scan door hanger and other outreach things developed





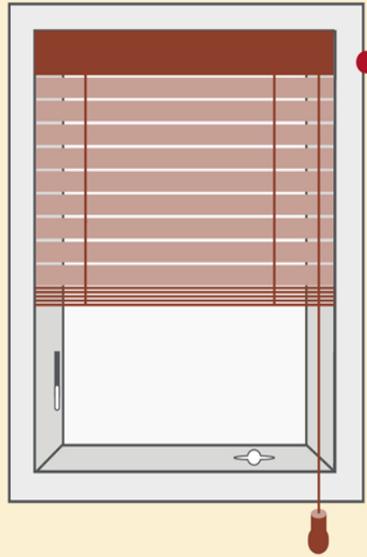
Boozhoo, spring is nearly here which means time is short on deploying test kits. They should be deployed for 3-7 days then sent in by mail.

Boozhoo, spring weather is here and the oziisigobimizh are starting to pop, It is time to pick up your radon test kits and send them in.









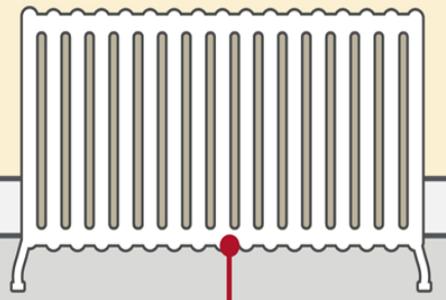
3 feet or more from exterior windows or doors

At least 12 inches from ceiling

1 foot or more from exterior walls

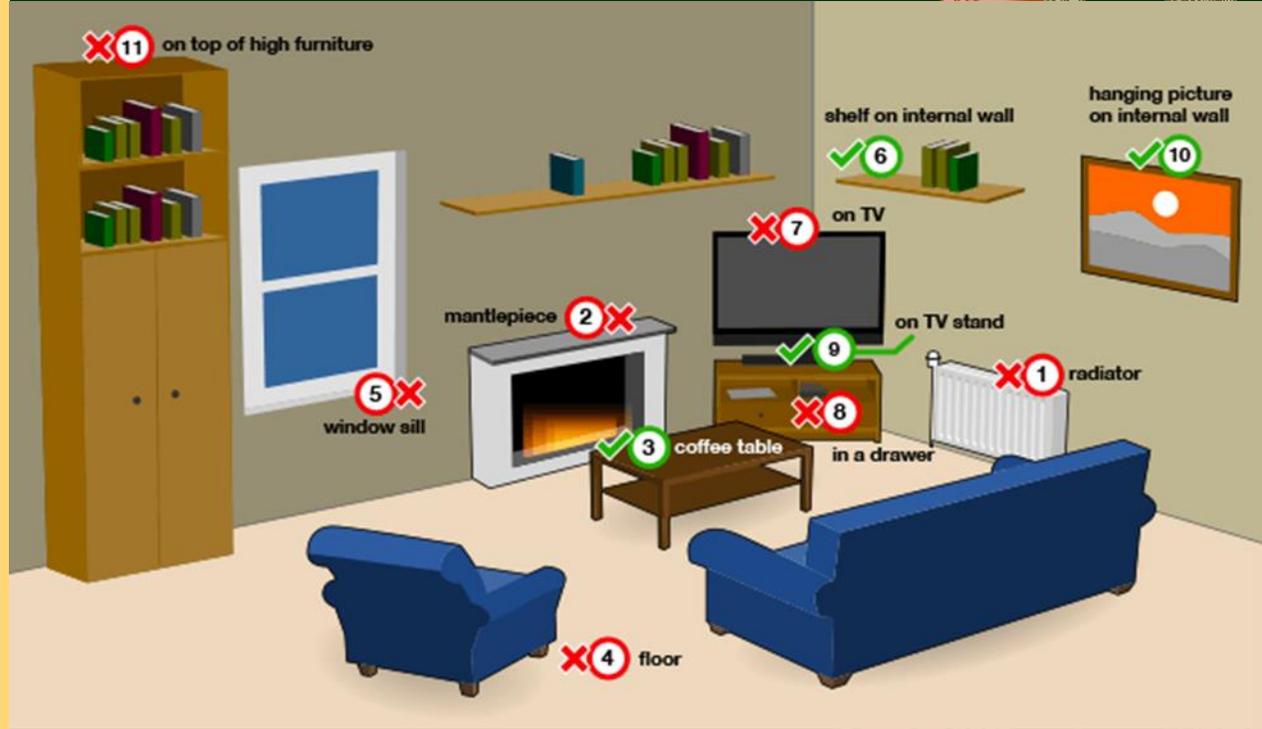


4 inches from other objects or radon tests



Keep away from heat sources

20 inches or more above floor



❌ 11 on top of high furniture

❌ 5 window sill

❌ 2 mantelpiece

❌ 7 on TV

✅ 6 shelf on internal wall

✅ 10 hanging picture on internal wall

✅ 9 on TV stand

❌ 1 radiator

❌ 8 in a drawer

✅ 3 coffee table

❌ 4 floor

Challenges

- Lower than wanted return rates in this first year.
 - Roughly 20% return rate
 - Plus one forgotten about long term device.
- Having to create new forms for private homeowner consent,



Successes / Next steps

- Lots of interest in the project from community members.
- This project has opened the door to work more with the clinic.
- Finding a Radon mitigator.
- Mitigating one of the two homes that returned higher than the action level.
- This year we are doing a different approach than last year. The focus this year will be door to door within the communities while still having a handful of tests at the clinic.



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Zakkary Zander

Pronouns: They/Them

MNRD Air Quality Technician &
Tribal Indoor Radon Program Manager

Ph: 715-682-7123 x1553

Email: airqualitytech@badriver-nsn.gov