

TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Press Release

Good Time to Test for Radon

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The Killingworth Health Department wants to remind residents that now is the best time to test their homes for radon gas. During the winter months when doors and windows are kept closed, radon tends to build up indoors. Radon gas is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. It is estimated that radon is responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States.

Radon is a radioactive gas formed from the decay of naturally occurring uranium. It is found in rock, soil and water. Radon in outdoor air poses a relatively low risk to human health, but it can enter your home from the surrounding soil and become a health hazard.

Radon is odorless and invisible, and people often don't know this silent killer could be in their homes. That is why testing for radon and reducing elevated levels of this poisonous gas is so important.

It is recommended that all homes be tested for radon. Testing your home for radon is simple and inexpensive. The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is offering residents a free radon test kit by completing an online form on the DPH Radon Program website (www.ct.gov/dph/radon). Test kits will be available during the month of January and while supplies last. Test kits can also be purchased from the American Lung Association of New England by calling 1-800-LUNG-USA or at your local hardware store.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends that homes with radon levels at or above 4.0 pCi/L be fixed. Homeowners should consider reducing their potential lung cancer risk by fixing homes with radon levels between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L. Smokers exposed to radon have a much higher risk for developing lung cancer.

If a high radon level is detected in your home, you can take steps to fix the problem by hiring a qualified radon contractor, with costs typically ranging between \$1,200 and \$1,500.

To learn more about radon and to obtain a list of qualified radon mitigation contractors, please visit the DPH Radon Program web site at www.ct.gov/dph/radon. The site also includes additional resources including a [video](#) that provides step-by-step instructions on how to test your home for radon.

For more information please contact the Killingworth Health Department at (860) 663-1765 x223.

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