



1819 Farnam St., Room 401, Omaha, Nebraska, 68183-0401

Promoting and Protecting Public Health

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Free Radon Testing Kits Available in Douglas County

The Douglas County Health Department has arranged to work with six important agencies to distribute 600 radon test kits to county residents at no charge on a first come/first served basis. Radon is a naturally occurring gas that can cause cancer. The Environmental Protection Agency has recognized eastern Nebraska as having some of the country's highest radon levels.

"The only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test for the gas," said Douglas County Health Director Dr. Adi Pour. "Your home's age and style don't matter. Every home should be tested for radon."

The kits are available at:

- Urban League Family Resource Center, 3040 Lake St., 451-1066.
- Neighborhood Center for Greater Omaha, 115 S. 49th Ave., 561-7581.
- Douglas County Extension, 8015 W. Center Rd., 444-7804.
- Latino Center of the Midlands, 4821 S. 24th St., 733-3730.
- Mt. View Boys and Girls Club, 5322 N. 52nd St., 208-3833.
- Common Ground Recreation Center, 1701 Veteran's Drive, 289-0451.

Please call the location before stopping in, because their hours may change.

Radon originates in natural deposits of radium and uranium. Radon forms when those compounds decay and the gas can easily enter a home, often through the foundation.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers and the second overall cause of the disease. The United States Environmental Protection Agency puts radon in the same category as tobacco on its list of cancer-causing agents, and the EPA says radon annually is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths.

The kits are available during regular business hours, with a limit of two kits per individual. Instructions and free postage come with the kit, but the basic idea is to place the charcoal testing unit on the lowest living level of your home for two days. Then, mail the testing unit to the address provided with the kit.

Anyone with questions should call the Douglas County Health Department's Environmental Health Section at 444-7486 for additional information.

www.douglascountyhealth.com

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