

LIVING GREEN

From the Ground Up

Celebrating National Radon Action Month

Four Ways to Take Action

1: Test your home.

EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend that all homes in the U.S. be tested for radon. Testing your prospective home is easy to schedule during your home inspection. Testing is easy and inexpensive, and it's the only way to know the radon levels in the home. The common testing method for real estate transactions is the placement of either a passive monitor or an electronic monitor in a specific area of the home where it will remain for a minimum of 48 hours.

2: Attend an event in your area.

Look for radon events in your community. Contact your state radon program for more information about local radon activities. (<http://www.epa.gov/radon/whereyoulive.html>). Join the radon discussion at meetings and seminars, attend remediation workshops or attend a Capital Steps event.

3: Spread the word.

Spend some time encouraging others to learn about radon and test their homes. Tell your family and friends about the health risks and encourage them to test their homes. You can also plan an activity in your community, write a letter to the editor, or attract media attention by working with a local official to get a radon proclamation. (View tips, event planning info, sample letters, and a sample proclamation in the EPA's special Radon Action Month Planning Kit at: http://www.epa.gov/radon/nram/event_kit.html).

4: Buy a radon-resistant home.

If you are considering buying a new home, look for builders who use radon-resistant new construction. If you are buying an existing home, get it tested. If the home already has a mitigation system, be sure to make sure it's in working order.

