



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 15, 2019

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Have You Tested Your Home for Radon?

KALAMAZOO, MI— January is National Radon Awareness Month, and the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department recommends residents take the time to test for radon in their home.

Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, causing more than 20,000 deaths annually in the United States. Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that is naturally released from rock and soil. Radon gas can enter homes through the foundation resulting in an increased risk of exposure to radon radiation.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates 1 out of 15 homes in the US have elevated radon levels. Kalamazoo County is considered a Zone 1 County, which means that average radon levels are expected to be above the EPA's recommended action level of 4.0 pCi/L (*picoCuries per Liter*).

During January and February, and while supplies last, Kalamazoo County residents may pick-up a **free** Short-Term Radon Test Kit at the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, located at 311 E. Alcott Street.

"Testing your home is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon since there are no warning signs or symptoms from exposure," said Vern Johnson, Environmental Health Division Chief for the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department. "This is an important public health issue. We encourage residents to use the months of January and February to learn about radon and take action to know their radon levels in their home," stated Johnson.

There are also Long-Term Radon Test Kits that test the air for at least 3 months and up to 51 weeks. The Long-Term Radon Test Kits provides an average radon level exposure in the area tested. These are available online from the State of Michigan Healthy Homes Section at <http://cgi.radon.com/sub/mi/>. Short-Term Radon Test Kits are also available for purchase year-round for \$10.00 at the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department.

To learn more about radon, contact the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department at 269-373-5210 or visit www.kalamazoo.gov/eh.

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Kalamazoo County Government
Health & Community Services Department

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HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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