



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



Radon Testing and Mitigation

Radon is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless gas produced by the natural decay of uranium in the soil. Radon gas can travel into homes undetected through cracks in the foundation or floors, gaps around pipes or cables, or sumps and drains. **Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer after smoking**, causing nearly 16% of lung cancer deaths annually which is equal to about 850 lung cancer deaths each year in Ontario. All homes contain some radon gas, but to understand radon concentrations, homes must be tested.

In November 2024 and January 2025, Health Canada will be mailing postcards to Ontario residents to encourage radon testing. Postcards will be mailed to Ontario residents situated in regions where approximately 16-26% of homes have tested **above the Canadian Guideline of 200 Bq/m³**, and to areas not previously targeted by past mailouts. Some residents in Durham Region will receive these postcards.

Action Requested

As a health care provider, we want to thank you for partnering with us to help raise awareness about radon gas in people's homes.

- **Testing:** If patients ask about testing, please share the [Take Action on Radon](https://takeactiononradon.ca/provinces/ontario/) website for Health Canada-approved tests (<https://takeactiononradon.ca/provinces/ontario/>).
 - Do-it-yourself radon test kits are available for purchase at local home improvement stores or online. Only kits approved or certified by the Canadian National Radon Proficiency Program (C-NRPP) are recommended.
 - Certified radon measurement professionals can also be used to conduct the testing, and local professionals can be found on the [C-NRPP website](https://c-nrpp.ca/find-a-professional/) (<https://c-nrpp.ca/find-a-professional/>).
- **Mitigation:** Homes testing above 200 Bq/m³ are encouraged to mitigate their home from radon.
 - Certified radon remediation contractors can help homeowners assess remediation needs and provide services. Local professionals can be found on the [C-NRPP website](https://c-nrpp.ca/find-a-professional/).
 - Many programs exist to help with remediation costs including:
 - Tarion Home Warranty for homes 7 years old or less
 - Canadian Lung Association grant program for older homes
 - For renters, there are no requirements for landlords to test for radon. A tenant can request a radon test, however if the landlord refuses, the tenant will have to purchase a test kit or hire a radon contractor. If a radon test shows a level above Health Canada's guideline, a tenant should notify the landlord and ask to correct the problem. For assistance with dealing with radon-related issues, renters can contact the Ontario Landlord and Tenant Board at 1-888-332-3234 or the Advocacy Centre for Tenants of Ontario at 1-866-245-4182.

November 6, 2024

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

