



Greene County Public Health

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Press Release

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1 in 15 Homes in the U.S. Have High Radon Levels *Help Protect Your Community this January*

GREENE COUNTY, OH—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designates January as National Radon Action Month (NRAM). This January, we have been raising awareness about the risks of radon in your community — and teaching others how to test their homes.

An estimated 1 in 15 homes in the U.S. has high radon levels, and high radon levels can be a risk anywhere. Living in a home with high radon levels can be dangerous for your health. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, and it is estimated to cause over 20,000 deaths each year in the U.S. Because of the ways that radon and tobacco smoke damage the lungs, high radon levels are especially dangerous for people who smoke. Their risk of lung cancer is 10 times higher than that of non-smokers.

Radon, a radioactive gas, builds up in homes over time and can't be seen, tasted, or smelled — so it's easy for radon problems to go unnoticed. The only way to know if you have a radon problem is to test your home. The Surgeon General recommends that all homes get tested for radon. Home radon tests are simple and inexpensive — and can help save lives.

Homeowners can test their homes with a simple kit, and if they have high radon levels, they can fix them. A licensed radon mitigation contractor can help with radon reduction repairs.

NRAM may be over, but you can raise radon awareness in your community during National Radon Action Month by:

- Contacting local school systems to encourage radon education at school
- Holding an informal talk in your local library or other community space
- Writing a letter to your local newspaper about the risks of radon and the importance of testing your home
- Organizing a time for everyone in your neighborhood to test their homes together

For more information about National Radon Action Month, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/radon/national-radon-action-month-consumer-information>. To learn how to test your home or where to find a test kit, call the National Radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON (1-800-767-7236). To learn more about radon, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/radonEPA> or <http://www.cdc.gov/radon>

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