

# How to Conduct a Radon Test in Your Home

## Do's and Don'ts

- **Do** conduct a radon test on the lowest structural areas suitable for occupancy.
- **Do** conduct a radon test in rooms that are regularly occupied, such as family rooms, living rooms, dens, playrooms, bedrooms, etc.
- **Do** conduct a radon test for each type of structural construction, such as a finished basement, slab on grade (concrete floor), or a room over a crawl space.
- **Do** test up to 2000 square feet with only one test kit. Use additional test kits for rooms over 2000 square feet.
  
- **Do not** use charcoal test kits to test rooms with high moisture levels such as bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms, spa rooms, etc.
- **Do not** conduct measurements during severe storms or periods of high winds (greater than 30 miles per hour).
- **Do not** base a decision to conduct remediation on only one short term test result(s).
- **Do not** use measurements made in closets, cupboards, sumps, crawlspaces or nooks in the foundation. These are not a representative measurement and are not to be the basis on whether or not to mitigate.

## Close the Building for 12 Hours Before Beginning Test

1. Keep windows closed for 12 hours before and during the test.
2. Keep external doors closed, except for normal use.
3. Do not use whole house (attic) fans for 12 hours before and during the test.
4. Portable window fans must be removed or sealed.
5. Window air conditioning units may only be operated in re-circulating mode.
6. Fire places or combustion appliances (except for water heaters/cooking appliances) may not be used unless they are the primary source of heat for the building.

## Prior to Conducting the Test

Fill out name and address on test kit. Include an e-mail address if results are needed sooner.

Fill out start date and time started.

Circle answers to questions on test kit, such as floor tested, closed conditions maintained, average temperature, etc.

Open test kit and insert the foam piece, holding the test kit open.

## Conducting the Test

Place the measurement device in the general breathing zone and device must be:

1. Undisturbed during the measurement period.
2. At least 3 feet from doors, windows to the outside, or ventilation ducts.
3. Out of direct flow of air from ventilation duct(s).
4. At least 1 foot from exterior walls.
5. 20 inches to 6 feet from the floor.
6. At least 4 feet away from other objects horizontally or vertically above the detector.
7. At least 4 feet from heat (fireplaces, furnaces, out of direct sunlight, etc.)

8. *Measurement devices may be suspended in the breathing zone and, if suspended, shall be 20 inches to 6 feet above the floor and at least 1 foot below the ceiling.*

#### After conducting the Test

Remove foam piece and discard.

Seal test kit.

Fill out the stop date on the test kit and any other required information.

Mail the test kit the same day the test is concluded.

Test results should be under 4.0 pCi/L. For any test results greater than 4.0 pCi/L consult with the Southern Seven Health Department before additional testing or mitigation.