

HOCKING COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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January is national radon awareness month. Radon levels are not something that many homeowners think about often but, it is the number one cause of lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers in America. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, around 21,000 Americans lose their lives each year due to complications caused by exposure to this gas. Radon could be present at dangerous levels in any home as it is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is released in rock, soil and water underneath the house.

Radon is colorless, odorless and tasteless so, it is impossible to know if it is present in your home without a radon test kit. The Ohio Department of Health offers these test kits through the mail. You may also purchase test kits in some hardware stores. If you do find a radon gas problem in your home, it can be fixed. Radon reduction systems are relatively inexpensive and can reduce radon levels in your home by up to 99%.

For more information on radon, visit the United States EPA website: www.epa.gov. The Ohio Department of Health has test kits available for purchase for about \$10.00. If you would like a test kit mailed to you from the Ohio Department of Health, visit their website: http://www.radon.com/sub/oh/