



# *Town of Darien*

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## *Health Department*

### **It's Time to Test Your Home For Radon!**

The Darien Health Department urges residents to test their homes for radon gas, the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. Health officials estimate that radon is responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States.

A naturally occurring radioactive gas formed from the natural decay of uranium, radon is found in rock, soil and water. While radon in outdoor air poses a relatively low threat to human health, it can enter homes from the surrounding soil and become a health hazard inside buildings.

Because you can't see or smell radon, people are often unaware that this silent killer could be in their home. Testing for radon and reducing elevated levels is important and could save your life or the lives of your loved ones.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) Radon Program recommends that all Connecticut homes should be tested for radon. Testing is recommended in the winter months, when radon tends to be highest. Testing homes for radon is simple and inexpensive. Free Radon test kits are available at the Darien Health Department office or may be purchased at many hardware stores and from the American Lung Association of New England by calling 860-289-5401 or visiting their website at: [www.lungne.org](http://www.lungne.org)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends that homes should not have radon levels at 4.0 pCi/L or higher. Homeowners can further reduce their potential lung cancer risk by taking action in homes that have radon levels below 4 pCi/L. An important consideration for some is that smokers exposed to radon, as well as those subject to second-hand smoke, have a much higher risk for developing lung cancer.

Generally, radon problems can easily be corrected by qualified radon contractors, with costs typically ranging between \$1,200 and \$1,500. A homeowner should hire a qualified radon mitigation (reduction) contractor to reduce or eliminate airborne radon levels.

To learn more about radon and to obtain a list of qualified radon mitigation contractors, please visit the DPH Radon Program web site at [www.ct.gov/dph/radon](http://www.ct.gov/dph/radon) or call (860) 509-7367. Remember, free test kits are also available at the Darien Health Department office in Room 109 of the Town Hall.