



HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shedding Light on Radon
Health Department giving out free, at-home radon test kits

The Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) recognizes January as National Radon Action Month. GTCHD is helping our community ensure safe radon levels in their homes by offering free test kits. Through targeted awareness campaigns, GTCHD aims to empower residents to act and safeguard their homes or offices from this silent threat.

"Radon is a serious health concern, but if we work together, we can reduce the risks associated with radon," said Brent Wheat, GTCHD Environmental Director. "Testing and mitigation will help us have a healthier and safer community."

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that you can't see, smell, or taste. It's the second leading cause of lung cancer, responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year, according to the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#).

This year's Radon Action Month campaign emphasizes the following key messages:

1. **Testing for Peace of Mind:** GTCHD urges residents to take the first step in radon prevention by conducting a simple radon test in their homes. Testing kits are available free of charge at the GTCHD Environmental Health Office during January and offer a cost-effective means to detect this invisible threat.
2. **Mitigation for Health and Safety:** In the event of elevated radon levels, GTCHD provides resources and guidance on mitigation techniques. These measures are essential in reducing radon exposure and minimizing associated health risks.
3. **Community-wide Impact:** Radon awareness is not limited to individual households. GTCHD calls on community leaders, schools, and businesses to join the fight against radon, creating a collective effort to protect public health.

Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy created a new interactive map based on the last 10 years of radon data in the Radon Program. This allows residents to see radon testing patterns in their zip code. The map can be [accessed here](#), or by visiting www.michigan.gov/radon website.

Last year GTCHD handed out nearly 390 free radon testing kits. Residents can pick up their free radon kits at the Environmental Health Office at 2650 LaFranier Road, Traverse City, Michigan 49686. For additional information about radon test kits, please call our office at 231-995-6051.

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