
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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National Radon Action Month
Test Your Home for Invisible Danger

Grand Traverse County residents are reminded that January is National Radon Action Month. Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless gas that can seep into homes and raise the risk of lung cancer. In Michigan, about one in four homes is expected to have radon levels above the federal safety guideline of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L).

“National Radon Month reminds homeowners that radon is a silent risk,” said Brent Wheat, Environmental Health Director of GTCHD. “Testing your home every two years is a simple step that can protect your family’s health. By conducting tests and implementing mitigation strategies, we can create a healthier, safer community.”

What is Radon

Radon gas comes from the breakdown of uranium, thorium, and radium in the soil beneath homes and buildings. It rises through the ground and can enter indoor spaces through small cracks in foundations, floors, or walls. Once inside, radon can build up to harmful levels. Long-term exposure to elevated radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S., after smoking.

Why This Matters Now

Winter is a good time to test because homes are often closed up and radon is more likely to build up. Since radon exposure is preventable, and testing is inexpensive, this month is an excellent time to act.

What You Can Do

To encourage community action, the Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) is offering a special discount on at-home radon test kits for just \$1.00. This promotion runs from January 2 to January 30. Residents can pick up a test kit at the Environmental Health Office located at 2650 LaFranier Road in Traverse City. The office is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, but closed daily from noon to 12:30 PM.

Each kit is designed to be user-friendly, complete with detailed pictures and instructions. After the promotion ends, the GTCHD will continue to provide radon test kits to residents year-round for \$15.00.

To learn more about radon, visit our website www.gtcountymi.gov/2691/Air-Quality-Toxins or call 231-995-6051.

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