



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Residents Reminded of Cancer Risk from Radon

KALAMAZOO, MI— You can't see, smell or taste radon, but it could be present at a dangerous level in your home. The Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department's Environmental Health Unit is encouraging residents to test for the presence of radon in your home by offering free short-term radon test kits during the months of January and February while supplies last.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers in America and claims the lives of about 21,000 Americans each year.

"Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that is naturally released from rock and soil. Radon gas can enter homes through the foundation floor or walls resulting in an increased risk of exposure to radon radiation," said Vern Johnson, Environmental Health Manager at Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department. "Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk for health issues caused by radon," Johnson said.

The EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General urge all Americans to protect their health by testing their homes, schools and other buildings for radon. January is National Radon Awareness Month and is the perfect time to test your home while it is weatherized for winter.

Free short-term radon test kits can be picked up at the following locations in Kalamazoo County:

- The Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department's Environmental Health Unit located at 3299 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI. Open hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- The Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center located at 1301 Lamont Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI. Open hours are Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

3299 Gull Road | Kalamazoo, MI 49048

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p.m., Wednesdays from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and the second Saturday of the month from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Short Term Radon testing kits are also available for purchase year round at the Environmental Health Unit for \$10.00.

To learn more about radon, contact the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department's Environmental Health Unit at (269) 373-5210 or visit www.kalcounty.com/eh.

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Kalamazoo County Government
Health & Community Services Department

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