Testing Directions for Short-Term Radon Test Kits


Preparing for your short-term test

• Open the test kit box but do not open the radon testing device. The box should contain a radon test device, instructions and a datasheet. The box is a return postage-paid mailer. Carefully read and follow the instructions that come with your test kit.
• Call the Radon Hotline, 1-888-RADON10, with any questions.
  • Closed house conditions: Close all windows and exterior doors at least 12 hours before starting the test, and keep them closed during the test. Exterior doors should remain closed except for normal entry and exit.
  • Begin to fill in the datasheet with your name, test location address, as well as where you want the report sent, if different from the test address. Results can be received by e-mail or U.S. mail by filling in the necessary information on the datasheet. PLEASE PRINT CAREFULLY!
  • Weather warning: You should not conduct short-term tests during unusually severe storms or periods of unusually high winds. Watch the weather forecast and choose three good weather days to test!
  • Do not test during the holiday period from Dec. 17 to Jan. 1 as the lab will be closed during the holidays and mail service can be delayed, resulting in invalid results! Also avoid ending the test on postal holidays.

What room to test in

• Test on the lowest lived-in level of the home, in a regularly used room where you spend a significant amount of time. A bedroom, family room or living room are ideal rooms. (If you use your basement only for storage and rarely spend time in it, then test on the 1st floor. If you have a bedroom, office or family room in the basement, test in the basement.)
• Keep the device away from humidity: Do not test in kitchens, bathrooms or sump areas because moisture can interfere with the test.
• Don’t test in garages, closets or crawl space areas because they are not areas you spend time in.

Getting ready to test

• To start the test, unscrew the cap on the device and put it in a safe place – you will need it at the end of the test period.
• Place the device on a flat surface where it can be left undisturbed for the test period. A night stand, dresser, end table or bookcase are good options.
• Place the device within the breathing zone, no higher than 7 feet, no lower than 20 inches from the floor. Place it in a location where it won’t be disturbed, i.e., away from moisture, drafts, direct sunlight, children and pets.
  • It should be at least 4 inches away from other objects, at least 3 feet from walls with exterior doors or windows, and at least 12 inches from walls with no exterior openings.
  • Do not place it near excessive heat sources such as appliances or fireplaces.
  • Do not operate swamp coolers, ceiling, attic or window fans during the test period.
  • Do not operate fans or other machines that bring in air from the outside – it could change your results. Re-circulated air from heating or air conditioning systems is fine. (Fans that are part of a radon mitigation system or small exhaust fans that run for short periods may be used during the test.)
  • Important: On the datasheet, record the device number (device number label on the device), the start date and time, the room and floor level (basement, 1st floor, etc.) where you placed the device, and indicate whether you observed Closed House Conditions. If you know the average indoor temperature, record it, too.
• Allow the device to sit undisturbed for at least 2 days (48 hours) up to 4 days (96 hours). We suggest a full 3 days (72 hours) to ensure the test stays within the 96-hour period!
To end the test
• At the end of the testing period, screw the cap onto the device and record the stop date and time on the datasheet.
• Be sure to write legibly and fill out the datasheet with test location, name and address, and, if different, the name and address of where to send the results, as well as the rest of the information. Cut and fill out the top section of the datasheet and save it for your records.
• Place the completed datasheet and device in a slot in the box and close it. If necessary, you may use tape to secure the box.
• Mail immediately, first-class postage has been pre-paid: the test device is time-sensitive and a delay in mailing can invalidate the test result.
• If you have more than one test, you can ship two devices in one box, or mail several boxes together in one package. Don’t ship them separately.

Test results
Test results will be available by email the next business day after the kit is received by the lab; or mailed, if the mailing address is supplied, or via the website http://www.accustarlabs.com. (Note: E-mailed results often end up in Spam or Junk Mail folders, so check those for the lab’s results by e-mail.)
• To view and download test results on the lab’s website, www.accustarlabs.com, use the test device number and test location address zip code, or call the lab’s automated toll-free phone service, 1-888-404-3144. For further assistance, call AccuStar Labs at 1-888-480-8812.
• Call the Nevada Radon Education Program at 1-888-RADON10 (888-723-6610) if you do not receive your report after 2 weeks. Have your device number to expedite assistance.

Testing for a home purchase
We highly recommend using a certified radon testing professional when testing for radon in a home for purchase. Professional testers know the protocols and the correct test location. A tester using a “continuous radon monitor” can provide a test result after a 48-hour test period.
• A Nevada certified radon testers list is available on the Nevada radon website at http://bit.ly/radontesters
• For more real estate testing information, see the “Radon in Real Estate” section on the Nevada radon website at http://bit.ly/RadonInRealEstate
• If necessary, when using test kits, real estate testing protocols should be followed. The same testing protocols addressed previously apply, with a few differences:
  - Two devices should be used at the same time, placed four inches apart.
  - Testing should take place in the lowest level of the home, whether finished or unfinished.
• When testing is completed, insert both devices into the two slots in the box, then place it in a mailing envelope to send by priority mail, UPS or FedEx, using the street address: AccuStar Labs, 11 Awl St., Medway, MA 02053.
  - Be sure to write legibly and fill out the datasheet with both device numbers, the room and floor level location, and e-mail address, as well as the rest of the information on the datasheet.

For more information:
Nevada Radon Hotline
1-888-Radon10 (888-723-6610)
www.RadonNV.com

Watch a short instructional YouTube video showing how to use a short-term radon test kit:

The University of Nevada, Reno is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, creed, national origin, veteran status, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation in any program or activity it operates. The University of Nevada employs only United States citizens and aliens lawfully authorized to work in the United States.

This publication was supported by the Nevada State Health Division through Grant Number K1-96983517-0 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not represent the official views of the Nevada State Health Division nor the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.