Testing Directions for Short-Term Radon Test Kits


Preparing for your short-term test

- Open your test kit’s outer bag but do not open the inner bag containing the radon testing device until you are ready to begin the test. Your package should contain a radon test device, instructions, a datasheet and a return postage-paid mailer. Carefully read and follow the instructions that come with your test kit.
  - **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, fax 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.
  - For questions, call the Radon Hotline, 1-888-RADON10.

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.

Starting and placing the test

- To start the test, open the inner plastic bag and remove the charcoal test pouch (test device). Be careful not to tear or puncture the device.
  - Place the test device on a flat surface with the paper side facing upwards. A night stand, dresser, end table or bookcase are good options.
  - Place the test device within the breathing zone, no higher than 7 feet, no lower than 20 inches above 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. Recirculated 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 serial number (located on bottom of device), the start date and time, the room and floor level (basement, 1st floor, etc.) where you placed the test device, and indicate whether you observed Closed House Conditions.**
  - **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, **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 test device in the foil-lined postage-paid mailing envelope and seal it. If necessary, you may use tape to secure the seal.
- **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, ship them all in one box or package, but each test must be sealed individually in its return mailer.
- If you wish to receive your results sooner, check the box on the outside envelope for “Rush Service,” put a note on your datasheet to “Rush Service” and include a $10 check, cash or money order (payable to Alpha Energy Labs) for each kit to be analyzed. Send the package by priority mail, UPS or FedEx, and use the street address: **2501 Mayes Rd., Ste. 100, Carrollton, TX 75006.**

Test results

You should receive test results within a few weeks by mail, or within a week by e-mail or fax. (Results often end up in the Spam or Junk Mail folders, so check those for the lab’s results by e-mail.)

- 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 serial number to expedite assistance.**
- Test results can be viewed and downloaded from the lab’s website: [www.drhomeair.com](http://www.drhomeair.com) using your test device serial number and mailing address zip code.
- For further assistance, call Alpha Energy Labs at 1-800-324-5928.

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.

- For more real estate testing information, see the “Radon in Real Estate” section on the Nevada radon website at [http://bit.ly/RadonInRealEstate](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 test devices in their own postage-paid envelopes, then place them together in one mailing envelope to send by priority mail, UPS or FedEx, to the street address: **2501 Mayes Rd., Ste. 100, Carrollton, TX 75006.**
  - Follow the directions for “Rush service” as outlined above. The cost is $20 if testing according to real estate testing protocol.
  - Be sure to write legibly and fill out the datasheet with both serial numbers, the room and floor level location, e-mail address or fax number, 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](http://www.RadonNV.com)

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