



## Cooperative Extension Offers Free Radon Test Kits

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From the University of Nevada:

Free, easy-to-use radon test kits are available now through Feb. 29 at University of Nevada Cooperative Extension offices and partner locations statewide. Radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas, comes from the ground and can enter homes and accumulate to elevated concentrations. At elevated concentrations, the odorless, colorless gas can raise the risk of lung cancer for unsuspecting homeowners.

Lung cancer kills more individuals than any other cancer, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates 21,000 Americans die each year from radon-caused lung cancer, killing more people than secondhand smoke, drunk driving, falls in the home, drowning or house fires. Once diagnosed with lung cancer, there is only a 15 percent five-year survival rate.

"A simple three-day test can determine if a house has a radon problem," Susan Howe, director of the Nevada Radon Education Program, said. "The risk for radon-caused lung cancer is preventable by testing and fixing homes with radon problems. Winter is a peak time for radon accumulation in the home."

In Nevada, one in four homes tested found radon concentrations at or above the EPA action level of 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/l). According to experts, living in a home with radon concentrations at the action level poses a similar risk of developing lung cancer as smoking about half a pack of cigarettes a day.

Cooperative Extension, the EPA and the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health urge all Nevadans to test their homes for radon. For more information or a list of free kit locations, visit the Nevada Radon Education Program website at [www.RadonNV.com](http://www.RadonNV.com), or call the Radon Hotline at 888-RADON10 (888-723-6610).

The Nevada Radon Education Program is a program of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and is funded by the EPA and the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health. The program has been working to raise awareness of the dangers of radon in the home since 2007. Since 2008, the program has distributed radon test kits, and more than 21,000 homes have been tested in Nevada.

Nevadans are encouraged to take advantage of this free offer to test their homes for radon, as after February, kits will still be available, but for a fee.

Nearly 26 percent of homes tested in Nevada found radon concentrations at or above the EPA action level. For a radon potential map specific to each Nevada county, go to <http://www.unce.unr.edu/programs/sites/radon/results/>.

Radon presentations are being offered at the following locations:

- Jan. 9 – North Valleys Library, 1075 N. Hills Blvd. #340, Reno, at 11 a.m.
- Jan. 12 – Sierra View Library, 4001 S. Virginia St., Reno, at 4 p.m.
- Jan. 13 – South Valleys Library, 15650A Wedge Parkway, Reno, at 6 p.m.
- Jan. 20 – Northwest Reno Library, 2325 Robb Drive, Reno, at 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 25 – Carson City Senior Center, 901 Beverly Drive, Carson City, at 6 p.m.
- Jan. 26 – Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, 128 Market St., Stateline, at 6 p.m.
- Jan. 27 – CVIC Hall, 1604 Esmeralda Ave., Minden, at 6 p.m.
- Jan. 28 – Incline Village GID Public Works, 1220 Sweetwater Road, Incline Village, at 6 p.m.

For those who cannot attend a presentation, free radon test kits are also available through Feb. 29 at the Cooperative Extension offices across the state. Call the Radon hotline for information: 888-RADON10 (888-723-6610).

And if you viewing area covers Elko and Lyon County communities, we are offering programs at these locations:

- \* Jan. 7 – Elko County Library, 720 Court St., Elko, at noon
- \* Jan. 14 – locations in Lyon County
- \* Dayton Valley Branch Library, 321 Old Dayton Valley Road, Dayton, 9 to 10 a.m.
- \* Fernley Branch Library, 575 Silver Lace Blvd., Fernley, 10:45 to 11:45 a.m.
- \* Radon test kits will be distributed at the Park and Ride parking lot at the intersection of Hwy. 95A and Hwy. 50 in Silver Springs, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.
- \* Smith Valley Library, 22 Day Lane, Smith, 3 to 4 p.m.
- \* Yerington Central Branch Library, 20 Nevin Way, Yerington, 5 to 6 p.m.

From the University of Nevada & Nevada Radon Education

