

# Free radon test kits available from Washoe County

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The highest radon level in the state of Nevada to date was recorded in Reno last January from a free test kit offered by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's Radon Education Program. Free kits for Nevadans are offered again by the program starting Dec. 1 through Feb. 29.

The Nevada Radon Education Program encourages all Nevada homeowners to test for radon and offers Nevadans free short-term radon test kits during the winter. Visit the

Washoe County Cooperative Extension office at 4955 Energy Way in Reno, Monday thru Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to pick up a free kit. For more information and other locations, call 1-888-RADON10 (1-888-723-6610) or visit [www.RadonNV.com](http://www.RadonNV.com).

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless radioactive gas that comes from the decay of uranium found naturally in rocks, soil and water. It dissipates outdoors, but can accumulate in buildings. At elevated concentrations, the gas can raise the risk of developing lung cancer. Lung cancer kills

more individuals than any other cancer, and the U.S. 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.

Testing is the only way to determine if a building has a radon problem. The Reno home that had the highest radon level in Nevada tested at 195 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/l) which is 48 times the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) action level of

4 pCi/l. Although this is the recommended level to fix one's home, it is not a safe level. According to experts, living in a home with an average radon level of 4 pCi/l poses a similar risk of developing lung cancer as smoking about half a pack of cigarettes a day.

One can reduce their risk of radon-caused lung cancer by testing and fixing homes with radon problems. Compared with many other major home repairs, radon mitigation is relatively inexpensive. Assuredly, the Reno home mentioned above was fixed, or mitigated. However, one in

four Nevada homes tested found radon concentrations at or above the EPA action level of 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/l). The program is aware of more than 830 radon mitigations in the state, but it represents only 19 percent of the homes needing repairs.

As part of the program's wintertime educational efforts, free radon presentations will be offered statewide in January and February. Locally, residents can attend a presentation at the following locations and dates:

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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, 911 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.

Scheduled presentations in other communities are:

» 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.

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