

Radon Test Results

Overview

New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental Radiation Protection
Radon Program

OPEN Data NY

New York State Radon Test Results

General Description

Following the discovery of very high levels of radon in homes located in Pennsylvania in December 1984, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a number of states, including NYS, became more active in carrying out a more diverse radon testing and education program. Since June 1987, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) has distributed approximately 215,000 charcoal canister and alpha track radon detectors to residents of the state and collected about 151,000 test results. These results are categorized by test location and modifier for more accurate determinations of prevalence and decision making.

The DOH developed the Radon Program website:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/radiological/radon/radon.htm>

The Radon Program website provides the following information:

- Frequently asked questions: Quick guide to important radon-related questions
- Radon and Real Estate: Information for radon testing during the home sale and purchase process
- Radon Awareness through Physicians: An outreach campaign to provide radon risk communication information for physicians across NYS
- Radon in Granite: Information about naturally-occurring radioactive material in granite products
- Radon Poster Contest: A yearly poster contest is held as an outreach activity to provide radon health risk information and awareness to both students, parents, and teachers
- Radon Testing: How to obtain a radon test kit through the NYSDOH Radon Program, list of nationally certified radon measurement professionals, and a list of NYS Environmental Laboratory Approval Program certified laboratories
- Radon Mitigation: The specifics of radon mitigation, a list of nationally certified radon mitigation contractors, a guide for financing radon mitigation systems
- Radon Resistant New Construction: The construction techniques used in building new homes to seal soil gas entry points, prevent radon gas intrusion, and vent the radon outdoors.
- Laws and Regulation: Radon reporting requirements and Title 10 NYCRR 16.130 Radon Testing and Reporting
- Radon Level Maps and Statistics: Radon Levels by county, town, and zip codes

The website is updated as needed with ongoing and new projects and campaigns. The website is updated yearly with radon level maps and statistics.

The DOH Radon Program website has allowed New York residents, teachers, students, physicians, public health professionals, and political officials to:

- better understand what radon is
- determine the prevalence of radon in New York
- know how you test for radon
- know how to fix a radon problem
- know how to contact the program for more information

Researchers may use the data to help assist in evaluating:

- radon test kit results for county, town/village, and zip code information to be used further in geocoding, and performing GIS studies for radon prevalence;
- environmental data to determine potential high risk radon areas for further outreach and education for radon testing and mitigation; and
- how to endorse building codes for radon resistant new construction in radon prevalent areas.

Data Collection Methodology

The DOH Radon Program contracts with a radon testing laboratory to provide short-term charcoal radon test kits, radon test kit analysis and results to residents. DOH Radon Program staff distributes radon test kit applications during outreach events, through county health programs, and to residents who request information. Applications are filled out by the resident and mailed to the DOH Radon Program with a check or money order for the actual cost of the detector. Once the application and payment is processed, the contract laboratory is contacted to provide the test kit to the resident. The resident receives the kit, performs a radon test, and mails the kit back to the contract laboratory for analysis. The contract laboratory provides the radon test results to the individual home owner and the DOH Radon Program. All testing data is entered into our database. From this database, we are able to create radon prevalence maps, design special outreach activities and campaigns, and track the location in the home where the detector was placed.

The radon test results obtained from this database may not be reflective of all radon tests completed in New York State. There are approximately 30,000-40,000 radon tests completed each year in New York State that are not purchased through the NYSDOH Radon Program. These tests are completed by resident home owners, inspectors, schools, etc. across the state.

Limitations of Data Use

Public access to this environmental data is intended solely to allow the public convenient and immediate access to public information. While all attempts are made to provide accurate, current, and reliable information, the Department of Health recognizes the possibility of human and/or mechanical error and that information captured at a point in time often becomes obsolete.

Therefore, the Department of Health, its employees, officers and agents make no representation, warranty or guarantee as to the accuracy, completeness, currency, or suitability of the information provided here. New York State residents themselves are performing the actual radon test.