

NATIONAL

RADON

ACTION MONTH



January is National Radon Action Month

DHEC is teaming up with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in a nationwide campaign to educate Americans about the dangers of radon. The campaign will encourage people to take action to protect their families.

Radon is responsible for more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year in the United States, according to EPA estimates. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers in the U.S. and the second leading cause of lung cancer among smokers.

What is Radon?

Radon is a natural radioactive gas. It forms when natural uranium breaks down in soil, rock, and water. Radon is invisible, odorless and tasteless. While radon levels in outdoor air are not a concern for human health, it can accumulate to dangerous levels inside buildings. Most

people are not aware of the health effects of radon. They may ignore the possibility that there is a silent killer in their homes.

Radon poses a serious threat to our community's health, but there is a solution. Testing for radon is easy and inexpensive. Radon test kits can be obtained from local hardware and home improvement stores, from radon testing companies, or from DHEC.



DHEC urges you to take action during this year's National Radon Action Month by testing your homes for radon. To get your **FREE radon test kit** from DHEC call 1-800-768-0362 or (864) 241-1090. Or send an e-mail to radon@dhec.sc.gov. For more information on radon visit our Web site at www.scdhec.gov/radon, or visit EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/radon>.