

## RADON AWARENESS PROGRAM

Sponsored by  
Morris Township, Harding Township, and  
Hanover Township Health Departments

The Municipalities of Morris Township, Harding Township, and Hanover Township will participate with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Radon Section in a special radon awareness program to promote testing for radon in homes.

In its "Radon Awareness Program" (RAP), the NJDEP Radon Section provides outreach assistance to promote radon testing in homes. We are pleased to cooperate with the NJDEP in this program to ensure that all residents are aware of the need to test homes and reduce radon levels where necessary. Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon. Radon testing is easy, and problems can be fixed.

For communities participating in the RAP, the DEP Radon Section provides the local health department with radon informational materials which explain how residents can reduce the risk of radon exposure and how to support local outreach initiatives. The outreach efforts will be undertaken in Morris, Harding and Hanover Townships.

Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally when uranium breaks down in the soil and in rock formations. Small amounts of uranium are found in nearly all soils and rocks. Radon gas moves up through the soil and finds its way into homes through cracks in the foundation and openings around sump pumps, pipes and drains. High radon levels are associated with a greater risk of lung cancer. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers. Overall, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer resulting in approximately 21,000 deaths in the United States per year. It is recommended that homes be remediated if they have radon concentrations of 4 pCi/L or more.

There is no truly "safe" level of radon since lung cancer can result from very low exposures. However, the risk decreases as the radon concentration decreases. If your test result is less than 4.0 pCi/L, you may want to discuss with remediation companies whether the radon level can be brought down still further. In about half of the homes that have been mitigated in New Jersey, radon levels have been brought to less than 1 pCi/L.

Homeowners who tested in the past and found low levels of radon may wish to retest to determine if radon concentrations may have changed due to changes in air flow within the house, or from new additions or other renovations, or due to new construction nearby that may have caused changes in the local geology.

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In addition to test kits the DEP's Radon Section at (800) 648-0394 or [www.njradon.org](http://www.njradon.org) offers a list of state-certified companies that provide testing services or do-it-yourself test kits, as well as companies that provide radon remediation services.

To reserve a test kit, please call Harding Township Health Department at 973-267-8000 ext. 1968 or ext. 1924. There will be a limited number of free test kits provided by the RAP available on a first come, first-served basis.