Office of COMMUNITY & RURAL AFFAIRS

OCRA

Radon Requirements for Residential Properties

Radon detection and mitigation are required for residential properties that receive financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

What is Radon?

Radon, a natural, invisible, and odorless gas found in soil, can enter buildings through cracks, posing health risks like lung cancer. Radon is estimated to cause 21,000 deaths per year, making it the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S.

The Indiana Department of Health recommends testing indoor air. It is crucial for assessing radon levels in buildings. Preventing radon entry is key for resident safety, achieved through radon mitigation devices.

How to Fund:

Participating in a CDBG Owner Occupied Rehabilitation program can help cover the costs of testing and mitigation required for your home.

Conducting Radon Testing

If a building is occupied for more than four hours a day, radon testing should be conducted. Homeowners have the option to test for radon using a DIY test or to have professional radon testing conducted. Learn more about radon testing and where to get a DIY test at: **https://www.in.gov/health/lead-and-healthy-homes-division/information-for-homeowners/**

Test Results:

The Environmental Protection Agency action level for radon is 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L is the unit used to measure the concentration of radioactivity in gas), while the World Health Organization recommends a maximum of 2.7 pCi/L for long-term exposure.

Here's what to do based on the test results:

- 4 pCi/L or higher: Address the radon problem promptly.
- 2-4 pCi/L: Consider taking action
- Below 2 pCi/L: Generally, no mitigation action needed, but retest every 5 years.

Office of COMMUNITY & RURAL AFFAIRS

OCRA

Radon Requirements for Residential Properties

Radon detection and mitigation are required for residential properties that receive financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

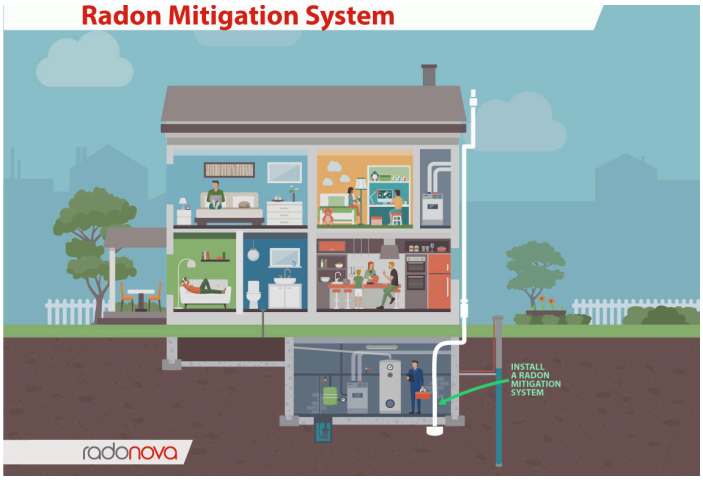
What happens after testing?

If indoor radon levels are 4 picocuries per liter or higher, a certified professional should develop a mitigation plan. Radon mitigation systems are permanent installations in buildings, and they work to reduce concentrations of radon gas in breathable air and water supply of inhabited spaces. The plan includes:

- Assessing health risks
- Describing the radon reduction system
- Setting a timeline for implementation and maintenance
- Conducting post-installation testing to ensure levels are reduced below 4.0 pCi/L, preferably below 2.0 pCi/L.

Mitigation Systems

There are a few types of systems that can help reduce radon levels in buildings. Passive systems don't use fans, while active systems like Active Soil Depressurization (ASD) do.



Closeout

If a radon mitigation system is implemented, retesting after mitigation must be conducted to ensure that radon levels have decreased and that the mitigation system is properly working. This test can also be conducted by the resident with a DIY test.

For any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to your local owner-occupied program administrator.