



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT,
AND VITAL STATISTICS**

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**Radon Action Month:
Collaborative Initiative Shows Results**
July, 2019

Results are in for Hopewell Borough's and Pennington Borough's 2019 Radon Action Month initiative. On behalf of the Boroughs, Montgomery Health Department distributed free radon test kits to residents in January, as part of a NJ Department of Environmental Protection collaborative effort. Two-thirds of the kits were returned for analysis in time for the Health Department's follow-up data evaluation.

What does the data say?

The 2019 data builds on over a decade on NJDEP findings on the prevalence of elevated radon levels in the Township. Cumulatively, NJDEP has found that **One-third of homes in Hopewell Valley** have radon levels over the recommended action level of 4 pCi/L. This gives the community a Tier 1 (High Potential for elevated radon) designation by NJDEP.

What is Radon?

Radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the breakdown of naturally occurring uranium in soil and rock. It is invisible, odorless and tasteless, and can only be detected by specialized tests. Radon enters homes through openings that are in contact with the ground, such as cracks in the foundation, small openings around pipes, and sump pits.

Radon Causes Lung Cancer

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Overall, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. The more radon you are exposed to, and the longer the exposure, the greater the risk of eventually developing lung cancer. Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year in the United States. About 2,900 of these deaths occur among people who have never smoked.

To prevent lung cancer, *first quit smoking*, but secondly,

Test Your Home!

Testing your home for radon is easy and homes with high levels of radon can be fixed. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection recommends that all homes be tested for radon. The Health Department offers low cost test kits in the Boroughs every January. Homeowners can test for radon themselves with kits available at many home improvement stores. If you are selling your home, tests must be done by a certified test firm.

The Bottom Line: Test your home and get it fixed if it's over the action level.

For more information, go to www.njradon.org or call the Health Department at 908-359-8211.



Public Health
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