



STATE REPRESENTATIVE LYNDA SCHLEGEL CULVER
108th Legislative District - Northumberland and Snyder Counties

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DEP Encourages Residents to Periodically Test Homes for Radon

Rep. Lynda Schlegel Culver (R-Northumberland/Snyder)

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is encouraging Pennsylvanians to resolve to make 2018 a safer, healthier year by testing homes for radon and encouraging family, friends and neighbors to do the same. With 40 percent of homes in our state having higher levels of radon than the EPA considers acceptable, DEP is encouraging residents to perform a simple test for this known human carcinogen.

Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that forms naturally in our soils. It can move through cracks and openings in our homes and workplaces into the air we breathe. DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell explained that Pennsylvanians are at risk of exposure to high radon levels because of the state's geology. High levels of radon tend to be found in basements, but the gas can be found anywhere in the home. He encourages residents to pick up a test at a hardware store, open it and set it on a surface in the basement, and in a few days, mail the test of the lab.

Winter is a good time to test for radon, because doors and windows are generally closed, providing more accurate results. If you'd rather not use a do-it-yourself test kit, hiring a qualified radon professional to conduct a test is another option.

The EPA action level is 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) of air. The EPA and U.S. Surgeon General recommend taking action to lower the level if a home's level tests higher than this. DEP's site, www.dep.pa.gov, for more information, including contacting the Radon Division, home testing instructions, what to do if your home radon results are high, how DEP can help, and more helpful resources for homeowners.

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