



Radon

facts

RADON IS THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF LUNG CANCER IN THE UNITED STATES.

Radon is a radioactive gas released from bedrock rich in uranium. This gas travels through the soil and may enter your home. To best protect yourself and your family, it is important that you test your home.

Is your home safe from radon?

Radon is an invisible, odorless, and tasteless gas that is found in homes and can pose a serious health risk. Breathing radon gas is the second-leading cause of lung cancer behind smoking and is responsible for approximately 21,000 deaths each year in the United States. Radon levels are measured in picocuries per liter (pCi/L) and homes with levels above 4.0 pCi/L can increase the risk of developing lung cancer. As radon is a gas, it is very difficult to predict where it will go. In some cases, houses next door to each other can have very different levels of radon.

Each county in Nebraska is unique. For the Two Rivers Public Health Department district, the average levels of radon vary widely. Here are the **percentages** of houses that test high in your county:

- Buffalo County 56%
- Dawson County 37%
- Franklin County 70%
- Gosper County 51%
- Harlan County 66%
- Kearney County 62%
- Phelps County 62%

Two Rivers Public Health Department provides radon tests year-round for a \$10 fee. During January, Two Rivers participates in a grant to provide free radon kits each year.

If you are interested in getting a radon kit please contact the health department at either info@trphd.org or call at 888-669-7154. Tests are also available at both the Kearney and Holdrege office locations.

What if your home tests high?

If your home tests with a high of radon, Two Rivers Public Health Department can provide you with a list of licensed radon mitigators in your area. Radon mitigation is the action of lowering the danger of the radon gases in your home. Mitigation actions are determined based on your home's foundation and construction. Radon mitigation costs vary, so it is important to get an estimate before deciding which company you wish to use.

Learn More About Your County

Every house needs tested-with your help Two Rivers Public Health Department can assure the health of your community!

What is Two Rivers Public Health Department Doing for you?



The highest recorded (pico curies per liter) results in each county are:

- **Buffalo County 51.0**
- **Dawson County 52.0**
- **Franklin County 27.1**
- **Gosper County 14.5**
- **Harlan County 26.0**
- **Kearney County 30.0**
- **Phelps County 85.2**

Every county in the Two Rivers Public Health Department jurisdiction average test results are considered above the level of radiation that needs to be addressed according to the EPA. The level that is considered actionable by the EPA was chosen because it has been shown to significantly increase the likelihood of developing lung cancer.

“Radon is measured in pico curies per liter which is a measure of radiation in air.”

Radon is responsible for many avoidable deaths each year. Nebraska’s statewide average radon level is 6.3 pCi/L.

At least 70 out of the 93 counties in Nebraska have an average test level above 4.0 pCi/L. Every county that is in the Two Rivers Public Health Department jurisdiction tests at a level above 4.0 pCi/L.

Health Department Director Jeremy Eschliman is participating in the Nebraska Radon Resistant New Construction Task Force. This task force is actively working to make changes in laws to help all new construction in Nebraska be radon resistant.

