

FOR RELEASE
November 17, 2017

Take action on radon gas during November

The Government of Yukon and the Yukon Lung Association urge Yukoners to test for radon in their home and then take action if the test results exceed Health Canada's guidelines. Radon gas is invisible and odourless, may be found in any home or dwelling in Yukon, and is the second leading cause of lung cancer.

Free test kits are available November 14–30 in Yukon communities outside Whitehorse, courtesy of the Yukon Lung Association. In Whitehorse, individuals who purchase radon test kits between November 6 and December 30 from Home Hardware or certified radon professionals will receive a \$10 instant subsidy from the Yukon Lung Association.

Quotes

"We want Yukoners to be safe and healthy in their homes. Radon gas is present in every community in Yukon, so it is important to test for radon gas to make sure all homes are safe."

–Minister of Health and Social Services and Minister Responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation Pauline Frost

"Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Smoking is the first. I encourage all Yukoners to test for radon and to take action to lower high radon concentrations."

–Deputy Chief Medical Officer Catherine Elliott

"The Yukon Lung Association encourages all Yukoners to test their homes for radon gas. To build on last year's campaign where test kits were available for free in Whitehorse, we are providing a limited number of free radon testing kits to Yukon communities outside Whitehorse. In Whitehorse, kits are available at Home Hardware and from certified radon professionals with a \$10.00 subsidy from the Yukon Lung Association."

–Yukon Lung Association president Doug MacLean

Quick facts

- It is estimated that a non-smoker exposed to high levels of radon over a lifetime has a one in 20 chance of developing lung cancer. This increases to one in three for a smoker exposed to high radon levels over a lifetime.
- Yukon has one of the highest levels of radon in Canada. It is found in soil, rock or water and can enter buildings through cracks, drains, sump pumps and gaps around pipe fittings.
- There are certified radon measurement and mitigation specialists in Yukon who can test for radon and take steps to remove it, if necessary. Testing for radon is recommended for a minimum of three months during the winter.
- Radon test kits typically cost between \$50 - \$60.
- In the communities, radon kits may be obtained at: Buckshot Betty's Restaurant in Beaver Creek; Kluane Energy Café and Store in Burwash Landing; Yukon Housing office in Carcross; Tatchun Centre in Carmacks; Yukon Housing office in Dawson; Talbot Arm Motel in Destruction Bay; Yukon Housing office in Mayo; the Health Centre in Old Crow; Yukon Housing office in Ross River; Yukon Housing office in Teslin; and Yukon Housing office in Watson Lake. Residents of Keno, Pelly Crossing and Stewart Crossing are encouraged to visit the Yukon Housing office in Mayo.

Learn more:

Take Action on Radon
Find a Radon Measurement Professional
Yukon Housing Corporation

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News Release #17-247



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