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Protect Your Family - Test Your Home for Radon

January is National Radon Action Month and the Cayuga County Health Department is encouraging all residents to test their homes for radon to protect their health and that of their families.

Radon is a naturally occurring, radioactive gas that is known to cause lung cancer and may be present in your home. It is found in almost all soils in every part of the United States and can enter your home through cracks and other holes in a home's foundation. Without proper ventilation, radon can become confined inside where you and your family may breathe it in. Radon cannot be seen, smelled or tasted and people are likely unaware of its presence. Many residents who have not yet tested their homes may unknowingly be living in homes that have high radon concentrations, placing them and their families at risk.

It has been determined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State Department of Health that Cayuga County is a high-risk radon county. The attached map shows the percentage of homes in Cayuga County that had elevated levels of radon when tested over the past 20 years.

Winter is the best time to test homes for radon and for a limited time, the Cayuga County Health Department has free radon kits for Cayuga County residents. If an elevated radon level is discovered in a home, it can be corrected. Health Department staff will be available to discuss the radon results with the homeowners, and, if necessary, provide technical information regarding what steps can be taken to reduce the radon levels in their homes.

Free radon test kits are available at the following locations:

- Cayuga County Health Department - 8 Dill Street, Auburn
- Seymour Public Library - 176-178 Genesee Street, Auburn
- Port Byron Library - 12 Mentz Drive, Port Byron
- Weedsport Free Library - 2795 East Brutus Street, Weedsport
- Springport Free Library - 171 Cayuga Street, Union Springs
- Aurora Free Library - 370 Main Street, Aurora
- Powers Library Association - 29 Church Street, Moravia
- Sennett Town Hall - 931 Cherry Street Road, Auburn

If the air in your home has high levels of radon, there are several proven methods to reduce these levels. The right system depends on the design, as well as other factors, of your home. The cost to fix the problem can vary widely. Most homes though can be fixed for about the same cost as other common home repairs. If you need assistance, you can always consult with the state's radon office or contact a qualified radon mitigator. You can obtain a listing of certified radon mitigators by contacting the New York State Department of Health's Radon Program at (518) 402-7556 or visiting their website at www.health.ny.gov/radiation.

Protect yourself and protect your family from radon. Pick up your free radon test kit today to get started. Any questions, please contact the Cayuga County Health Department at (315) 253-1560 or visit <https://www.cayugacounty.us/902/Radon>

Protect your Family Test Your Home for Radon

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers.

Testing your home is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from exposure to radon.

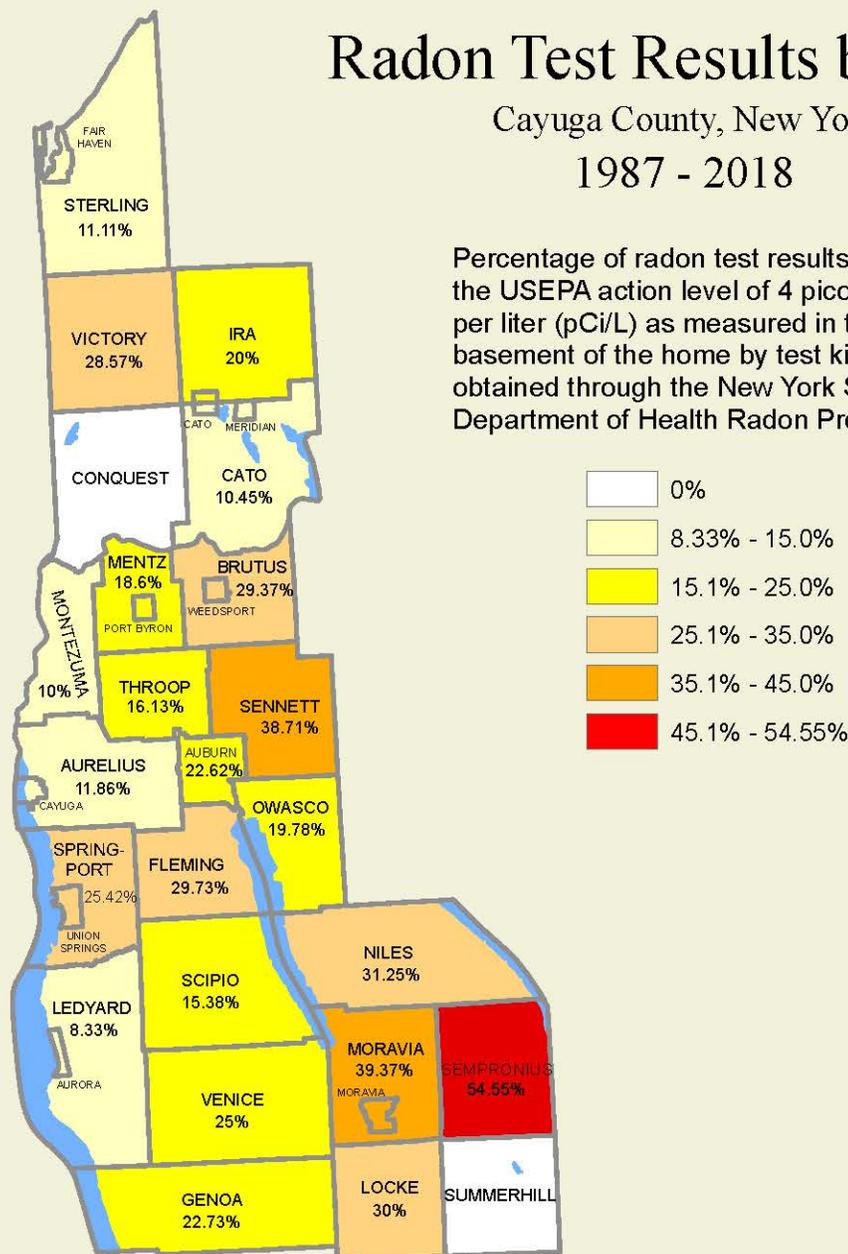
Free Radon Kits are available at the Cayuga County Health Department, 8 Dill St., Auburn. Get your free kit today.

Radon Test Results by Town

Cayuga County, New York

1987 - 2018

Percentage of radon test results above the USEPA action level of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) as measured in the basement of the home by test kits obtained through the New York State Department of Health Radon Program



0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

Map prepared by the Cayuga County Dept. of Planning and Economic Development
November 2018
Data source: New York State Department of Health Radon Program, 2018.



315-253-1560