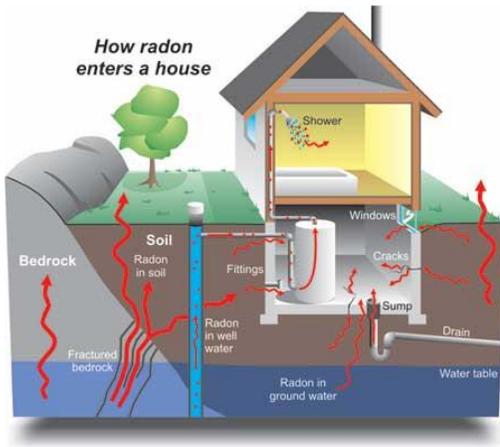


## FREE Radon Test Kits to Teller County Residents

CSU Extension in conjunction with Teller County Environmental Health and Public Health are supporting Radon awareness with free test kits, DVD's and materials for as long as supplies last.



Radon is a radioactive gas. It comes from the natural decay of uranium that is found in nearly all soils. It typically moves up through the ground to the air above and into your home through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Your home traps radon inside, where it can build up. Any home may have a radon problem. This means new and old homes, well-sealed and drafty homes, and homes with or without basements.

Radon is a cancer-causing radioactive gas that you can't see, smell or taste. Its presence in your home can pose a danger to your family's health.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers in the US and claims about 21,000 lives annually. In many cases, lung cancer can be prevented; this is especially true for radon.

The U.S. Surgeon General and EPA recommend that all homes be tested. Nearly half the homes in Colorado are estimated to have elevated radon levels. While radon problems may be more common in some areas, any home may have a problem. Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon. Testing is inexpensive and easy - it should only take a few minutes of your time.

Radon reduction systems work and are not too costly and even very high levels can be reduced to acceptable levels. Radon-resistant construction techniques can be effective in preventing radon entry.

More and more home buyers and renters are asking about radon levels before they buy or rent a home and is part of the disclosure statement when purchasing a home. For those who have fixed their high radon levels, it indicates that the home is well-taken care of and can be a selling plus.

The following table identifies radon tests taken over the past five years by zip code. The EPA suggests taking action at 4+ picocuries per liter (the radon measurement in the US).

Zip Code	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Below 4	Above 4								
80813	2	0	5	2	1	1	12	6	14	8
80814	14	22	11	48	3	20	60	154	64	154
80816	3	11	3	22	13	17	32	104	43	112
80820	2	3	0	5	3	1	8	9	10	9
80827	2	0	2	9	2	0	12	14	12	16
80863	25	21	35	64	23	43	126	334	135	217
80866	0	0	1	2	0	0	5	12	6	12
Totals	48	57	57	152	45	82	255	633	284	528

## **Radon Myths**

**MYTH: Scientists are not sure that radon really is a problem.**

***FACT:** Although some scientists dispute the precise number of deaths due to radon, all the major health organizations (like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Lung Association and the American Medical Association) agree with estimates that radon causes thousands of preventable lung cancer deaths every year.*

**MYTH: Homes with radon problems can't be fixed.**

***FACT:** There are simple solutions to radon problems in homes. Hundreds of thousands of homeowners have already fixed radon problems in their homes. Radon levels can be readily lowered for \$800 to \$2,500 (with an average cost of \$1,200).*

**MYTH: A neighbor's test result is a good indication of whether your home has a problem.**

***FACT:** It's not. Radon levels can vary greatly from home to home. The only way to know if your home has a radon problem is to test it.*

To pick up your FREE kits and materials you can visit one of three locations throughout the county:

- 1) CSU Extension office at 112 N. A St. in Cripple Creek. Please call 686-7961 ahead of time.
- 2) Public Health located at 11115 W. Hwy. 24 in Divide just behind Venture Foods from 8-4:30 or
- 3) Environmental Health (building and planning dept.) located in 540 Manor Ct. in Woodland Park.