

The Post Rock Connection
Post Rock Extension District #1 Family and Consumer Sciences Column
Month of January 2021
By Brenda Langdon, Family Resource Management Agent

Kansas Radon Action Month

January is Kansas Radon Action Month. With all of us spending more time at home, now would be a good time to test for Radon. Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, and chemically inert radioactive gas. Radon comes from the natural radioactive decay of radium and uranium found in the soil beneath the house.

Radon enters our homes through cracks in the concrete floors and walls, floor drains and sump pits. Testing for it is the only way of telling how much is present. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. The EPA recommends any house that tests 4.0 or over be mitigated to reduce radon levels.

Quick facts about radon:

- Radon induced lung cancer is the #1 cause of death in homes. 1 in 4 Kansas homes has high levels of radon.
- If you are buying or selling a home, Kansas law requires that all radon testing performed during real estate transactions be conducted by state-certified radon professionals. The list of certified professionals can be found at www.kansasradonprogram.org.
- The only way to know the radon level anywhere is to test. Radon test kits can be purchased at the Post Rock District Extension offices, or through K-State online at www.sosradon.org.

The largest source of error in radon testing does not come from the type of device used, but rather from failure to maintain appropriate closed house conditions during the test period. When installing a radon test kit in your

home, it's important to read and follow directions carefully. The instructions will also help you identify the best location to place your test.

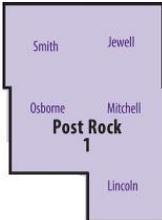
The best place to test is on the lowest, lived-in level. If you have a basement with a family room, bedroom, living room, that's where you should test. If your basement is totally storage, then you probably want to test on the first floor, in a bedroom, living room, or family room.

The tests typically include a prepaid mailing envelope for returning the test to a lab for processing. The lab will send results by mail, as well as posting the results online, according to the serial number on your test kit.

If the initial test results in a reading of 4 or higher, a longer follow-up test is recommended. If the follow-up test confirms the presence of elevated radon levels, special equipment can be installed to lower radon levels within your home.

Typical radon mitigation system involves a permanently-installed venting pipe and fan. It works by drawing, or sucking the radon from beneath the home with a small, continuously running fan, and venting it into the air above your home, where it dissipates into the atmosphere.

The Post Rock District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith Counties. Contact Brenda at bklangdon@ksu.edu or by calling 785-346-2521. Stay connected with "Post Rock Extension" on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. Our website is www.postrock.ksu.edu.



Post Rock Extension District #1

Beloit Office 115 S. Hersey Beloit, KS 67420 (785) 738-3597
Lincoln Office 108 W. Lincoln P.O. Box 8 Lincoln, KS 67455 (785) 524-4432
Mankato Office 307 N. Commercial Mankato, KS 66956 (785) 378-3174
Osborne Office 113 N. 1st Street Osborne, KS 67473 (785) 346-2521
Smith Center Office 218 S. Grant P.O. Box 287 Smith Center, KS 66967 (785) 282-6823

*Knowledge
for Life*

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact a Post Rock District Office.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.