



# Summit County Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Akron, OH. Summit County Public Health (SCPH) announces that January has been designated Radon Action Month.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. It is odorless, invisible and the only way to know if a home has radon is to test for it. SCPH and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) are working together to educate residents about the dangers of radon and to offer free radon test kits to Summit County residents.

Radon is released from rock, soil and water and moves up through the ground into the air in a home through cracks and other holes in the foundation. It can build to dangerous levels inside any home. Every home should be tested regardless of its age, foundation type, heating system, air tightness, or building materials.

Once inside a home, radon gas breaks down into particles that get trapped in the lungs when they are breathed in. The amount of time between exposure and the onset of disease may be many years. Breathing radon does not cause any short-term health effects such as shortness of breath, coughing, headaches, or fever.

Because it can't be seen, smelled, or tasted, a radon test is the only way to know if a home has high radon levels. ODH estimates radon is present at high levels in about 50% of Ohio homes.

Fortunately, testing for radon is simple and inexpensive. To get your free radon test kit, go to [www.scphoh.org](http://www.scphoh.org), download and fill out the coupon, and return it to the address given on the coupon. A free Radon home test kit will be mailed to you. If the test shows high levels of radon, a radon mitigation system can be installed in your home.

Additional information about radon, including the potential health risks, can be found on the Ohio Radon Information System web site, <http://radon.utoledo.edu/> and at the National Radon Hotline, 1-800-55-RADON. A list of certified testing and treatment companies are available from ODH at 1-800-523-4439 or <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/rp/radlic/radon.aspx>.

For more information on radon, contact Mike Harrison at 330-926-5627.

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