

# Advisory

Macomb County  
Office of Public Affairs



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## **MACOMB COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SAYS RADON TESTING SHOULD BE A WINTER 2005 PRIORITY**

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – The Macomb County Health Department encourages residents to include radon testing among their priorities for the new year.

“Elevated levels of radon are possible in approximately one out of every 15 homes in Macomb County,” said Tom Kalkofen, director of the Macomb County Health Department.

Radon is an odorless, colorless, radioactive gas that occurs naturally in soil and rock. It moves upward through the soil and enters buildings through cracks and openings in the foundation, floor or walls. Once indoors, radon can accumulate to unhealthy levels.

“The risk is relatively low in Macomb County, but problems do exist, and the only way to find them is to test,” he said. “We are encouraging people to obtain free radon test kits and test their homes this winter.”

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers nationwide, accounting for about 21,000 deaths annually.

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## Page 2

“Radon testing is very simple and should be done during the wintertime when the house is sealed up,” said Kalkofen. “Free, do-it-yourself test kits are available at the Health Department offices.”

The Health Department has been distributing radon test kits since 1993, and in 2004 distributed over 2,440 kits to Macomb County Residents.

Kits are always available, but winter testing is preferred as it gives more accurate results.

For more information call 586-469-5236 or visit [www.macombcountymi.gov/publichealth](http://www.macombcountymi.gov/publichealth).

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