

## MEMORANDUM

Date: July 22, 2016  
To: CDBG Owner Occupied Housing Program Recipients  
From: Iowa Economic Development Authority  
Subject: Radon Testing: implement the new requirements into Iowa's Owner-Occupied CDBG program.

Starting with the 2016 CDBG Owner-Occupied awards, all assisted homes will be tested for Radon.

The recommended test will be the activated charcoal test. The short-term charcoal test kits are available for purchase through the American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest. Approved charcoal test kits can be ordered by calling the ALA Hotline at 1-800-383-5992. Please mention the IEDA training when making requests in order to receive a discount of the typical \$15/test fee. If you mention the training and request in lots of 20 they will be \$6/each (plus shipping to requestor) for short term charcoal test kits.

This total cost includes shipping to lab/analysis/QAQC costs.

12 hours prior to testing, doors and windows should remain closed, except for normal daily use. **Homeowners should be informed all doors and windows must remain closed (except for normal use), and the kit must remain undisturbed throughout the duration of testing.**

The test kit should be placed using the following guidelines:

- One kit per foundation type
- Kit should be placed at the **lowest livable area of the home**. If a basement is not used as a family room or bedroom, then the lowest livable area would be the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.
- Between 20 in. and 6 ft. from the floor (breathable zone)
- At least 1 ft. from walls
- At least 3 ft. from doors and windows
- 4 in. away from any objects directly above or horizontally
- 20ft from any air flow devices (A/C, etc.)
- Away from heat sources, high humidity areas, furnaces, washer/dryers
- Test kits should be hung using clear plastic hook included on the kit
- Test for 3-7 days

While testing, whole house fans should not be used and A/C units must be placed on recirculating mode. Indoor temperature should be set at 72 degrees +/- 5 degrees. Please note, severe weather will impact results, please be aware of future weather conditions prior to scheduling your testing period.

Since the cost of mitigation is considerable, if the initial charcoal test comes back above 4 picocuries per liter you should complete a second test. If project timelines make it difficult to do the second test, simultaneous tests can be conducted using two charcoal kits which are placed 4-6 inches from each other. Average the two results to confirm and have reassurance the test was done correctly as the two results should be close in number.

If after retesting the results still indicate a reading above 4 picocuries per liter, mitigation should be considered. At this time you are not required to mitigate radon if there are other home repairs that are more important to protect the health and safety of the occupants. However, if your budget allows for mitigation it should be completed.

You will need to have the homeowner sign off that they have received the radon results and that you have discussed with them mitigation if the levels are above 4 picocuries per liter.

Contact information, including name of the homeowner, address and the grant administrator's email address, should be filled out completely on the test kit. Each test includes a serial number which can be used to look up test results online at Radon.com. [http://www.radon.com/radon/radon\\_results.html](http://www.radon.com/radon/radon_results.html)

Here is a link to the video explain the process entirely:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eQvyAyGHaY>

Additional information including brochures and pamphlets may be found here:

<http://healthhouse.org/radon/>

To find a mitigation specialist in your area, please visit the website below and select the link for "Iowa Credentialed Radon Mitigation Specialists" or "Map of Iowa Credentialed Radon Mitigation Specialists".  
<http://idph.iowa.gov/radon/fix>

If you have any questions regarding testing, please contact your project manager.