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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Building or Buying a Home? Think about Radon.

As spring begins, many people start thinking about buying or building a new home. If you are considering either option, it is important to prioritize radon testing before making any decisions. Radon is a natural, radioactive gas that is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. It can be dangerous to your health, so it is important to understand why testing is necessary.

The National Radon Safety Board (NRSB) recommends that all homes be tested for radon, no matter their age or location. Some areas have higher radon levels than others, but even new homes or homes in areas with low radon risks can still have unsafe radon levels.

Darren Brodie, Environmental Health Director for Genesee and Orleans County Health Departments (GO Health) stated, "We encourage homeowners and prospective buyers to be proactive. By testing for radon and addressing it before it becomes a problem, you're not just protecting the value of your home, but also the health of your family."

### **What is Radon?**

Radon is a gas that is colorless, odorless, and tasteless, which makes it impossible to detect without testing. It comes from the breakdown of uranium found in the ground, rock, and water. Radon can build up inside homes, especially in areas with poor airflow. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), radon causes about 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States.

### **Why Should You Test for Radon?**

1. **Health Risks:** Breathing in high levels of radon over time can lead to lung cancer, especially for smokers or people who are regularly exposed to high radon levels.
2. **Increased Awareness:** Testing for radon is an easy way to protect your health and the health of your loved ones. If you test and fix any radon problems, you can lower the risk of health issues.



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3. **Protect Home Value:** Radon problems can make it harder to buy or sell a home. Buyers may be reluctant to buy a home with high radon levels, and sellers may struggle to close a sale. Testing and fixing radon problems before selling can keep your home safe and easier to sell.

#### **What Buyers and Builders Need to Know**

- **Testing before Buying:** If you are buying a home, it is important to ask for a radon test. The test is quick and affordable. You should also ask the seller about any past radon tests and if any fixes have been done.
- **Testing before Building:** If you are building a new home, make sure to plan for radon-resistant construction. Builders can install systems like barriers and ventilation to prevent radon from entering the house. This can save you from future repair costs.
- **Radon Mitigation:** If high radon levels are found, there are ways to fix it. Mitigation systems can lower radon levels. A certified mitigation specialist can install these systems.

Testing for radon should be a top priority if you are buying or building a home. It is a simple and important step to ensure your home is safe. With the risks of radon, taking action now can protect your health and help avoid costly problems in the future. For more information on radon testing and how to fix radon problems, visit the United States [Environmental Protection Agency](https://www.epa.gov/radon).

For information on Health Department programs and services, visit [GOHealthNY.org](https://GOHealthNY.org) or call your respective health department at:

- Genesee County Health Department: 585-344-2580 ext. 5555
- Orleans County Health Department: 585-589-3278

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