



Radon Testing Protocols

- **Closed House Conditions**

- All doors and windows must be closed, except for normal entrance and exiting, and all fans and other external/internal ventilation systems, except the furnace, must not be operating for **at least 12 hours prior** to the test and during the entire testing period.
- **Short-term tests lasting less than four days should not be conducted during severe storms or periods of high winds.**

- **Placement:** All radon testing devices must be placed at least:

- 20 inches off the floor,
- 4 inches from other objects,
- 1 foot from external walls,
- 3 feet from windows or other potential openings in the exterior walls and
- for at least 48 continuous hours.

- **Results**

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that you take action to reduce you home indoor radon levels if your radon test is 4 pCi/L or higher.
- If the test was not done as part of a real estate transaction, DEP's [A Citizen's Guide to Radon](#) is the best guide to interpret your results.
- If the test was done as part of a real estate transaction, [Pennsylvania's Home Buyer's and Seller's Guide to Radon](#) is the best guide to interpret your results.
- If your radon test result is greater than 100 pCi/L, DEP will provide free [confirmatory testing](#).

Where to Test

DEP recommends testing the lowest livable area of the building and considers the basement, if any, to be the lowest livable area if it can be used as a living area without major structural changes. For real estate transactions, this is true even if the basement is not currently renovated into a finished living space because the buyer may renovate and use the basement as a living space. Naturally, basements with ground floors or low ceilings would need major structural changes and, therefore, would not be considered the lowest livable area. DEP recommends testing two or more locations, including the lowest livable, if the house has separate structural zones such as a family room above a crawl space or on a slab-on-grade.