

# Understanding your Radon Test Results

## Step 1: Be clear about what you tested.

Before you look at the numbers, be sure you know:

- Whether results are for water or air or both.
- Whether water test results were for a private well. You need a radon water test **only** for well water, not for town or public supply.

If you are on well water and tested just your water, keep in mind that you also need to test your air.

## Step 2: Pay attention to the numbers. Don't worry about "pCi/L"

The letters **pCi/L** are short for "picocuries per liter". This is a measurement scientists use. What matters to you are the **numbers**. Don't worry about the letters after the numbers.

## Step 3: Make wise treatment decisions.

If you are on well water, be sure to test both your water and your air. You need results from **both** to determine whether and how to treat a radon problem.

High levels of radon in water and air can be reduced to fall within safety guidelines. Treating a radon problem is a smart health investment.

## Understand Well Water Test Results

If your **well water number** is:

- **10,000 or higher**  
You need a treatment system
- **Between 4,000 and 10,000**  
You may need to treat. Check the state of Maine tip sheets @ <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/rad/radon/hp-radon.htm>.
- **4,000 or lower**  
Retest in 3 – 5 years.

## Understand Air Test Results

Short-term tests (48-96 hours) are the most common, often done before homes are sold. If your **air test number** is:

- **4 or higher**  
You need a treatment system.
- **Between 2 and 4**  
You may need to treat. Check the state of Maine tip sheets @ <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/rad/radon/hp-radon.htm>.
- **Below 2**
  - If you tested in cold weather with the heat on, retest in 3 – 5 years.
  - If you tested in warmer weather when heat is off, test again in cold weather when heat is on.

## Radon Gas: the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of lung cancer

Radon is a serious health risk. Natural levels of radon are high in Maine. Technology can usually reduce radon air levels to below 2 and easily reduce water levels to below 4,000 – the safest levels.

If you need to reduce radon levels in your home, be aware that contractors must be registered to reduce radon in water or air or both.

If radon is tested as part of buying or selling a house, a registered radon test **MUST** be used.

For a list of companies in your area that are licensed by the state of Maine for radon testing and mitigation visit the state website @ <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/rad/radon/ALMS%20search%20instructions.htm>

