

What about radon?

Radon is a radioactive gas that cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted. Radon gas comes from the natural decay of uranium in the rocks and soil. When the gas enters into the living areas of home or building and accumulates, it becomes a health threat. The decay products of radon can lodge in the lungs. The US surgeon general has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States today.

Radon gas is measured in picocuries per liter (pCi/L) The current airborne radon level at which the EPA recommends action is 4.0 picocuries per liter (pCi/L).

Although Cape Cod does not have a reputation for having large quantities of homes with elevated levels of radon, some experts estimate that about 20% of houses on Cape Cod and the Islands do have elevated levels of radon. The only way to know for certain is to test.

The radon test we perform is with either a Sun Nuclear continuous radon monitor or with 2 charcoal liquid scintillation (LS) devices.

For more detailed and exhaustive information about radon, read the EPA's A Citizen's Guide to Radon <http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html>

For Massachusetts specific information see <http://www.epa.gov/radon/states/massachusetts.html>

The above information is provided as a public service by the Environmental Protection Agency for educational purposes.