

Radon in Ashland County?

Yes, there has been data collected that shows that the Nova, Perrysville and Jeromesville areas have higher radon concentrations than some other areas of Ashland County. The map for Ashland County is found at the following webpage:

<http://radon.utoledo.edu/Ashland.html>

Opening windows on an upper level of a house will help to draw in radon. Additionally, radon concentrations can vary from house to house. Therefore, it is important that more data is collected on radon concentrations within Ashland County.

Of 364 test results submitted, 56% indicate levels of radon equal to or in excess of 4 pci/L of radon, which is pegged as a hazardous level.

The results for Ashland County are located at the following webpage:

<http://radon.utoledo.edu/Radondistribution.htm>

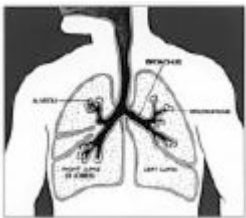
No data has been recorded by the Ohio Department of Health concerning radon within Ashland County Schools.

At this time, no person or company within Ashland County is registered through the Ohio Department of Health as a licensed radon tester, licensed radon mitigation specialist, nor licensed radon mitigation contractor. Please visit the following webpage for licensed radon professionals in adjacent counties:

<http://radon.utoledo.edu/Contractors/vendors.html>

What effect does radon have on my body?

The accumulated radioactivity in human airways is proportional to the radon level. At a concentration of 4 pCi/L, about 600,000 radioactive particles become trapped in the lungs every hour. Whether or not these radioactive particles end up in your lungs depends upon whether the particles are attached to airborne dust or smoke, or remain unattached. Unattached particles lodge deeper in lungs, which often explains the serious nature and the type of radon-induced deep-lung cancers in non-smokers. The result of this concentrated radiation is much more severe than if a radioactive dose was spread throughout a person's entire body.



Children are much more sensitive to radiation than adults. Analysis of the 1945 World War II Hiroshima, Japan victims of the nuclear blast show a higher rate of lung cancer among those who were exposed to the radiation blast as children.

“Lung cancer kills more Americans each year (160,000) than breast, prostate and colorectal cancers combined. The United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates 21,000 of them are the result of radon-induced lung cancer...” Dr. Rodney Landrenau, MD, Thoracic Surgeon, Director of the Comprehensive Lung Center, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Why are glacial sediments a source of radon in Ashland County?

The glacial sediments in Ashland County (called "glacial till") contain large amounts of limestone and dolostone derived from the older, underlying rocks. These rocks were weathered many years ago and produced

a deep soil on top of the till which is enriched in uranium. This till is has also been affected by uranium in places where it contains a lot of pieces of underlying Ohio Shale.

The geologic formation in Ashland County called “Ohio Shale” consists of a black, organic and clay-rich rock. In central and western Ohio, it commonly contains between 10 and 40 parts per million of uranium, and this is 5 to 20 times more uranium than the average rock in the Earth's crust. (The Earth's crust typically contains between 1 and 3 parts per million (ppm) of uranium.) Radon is made through the decay of uranium.

Should I request that a dwelling be tested for radon before I purchase it?

When you purchase a dwelling, you have the right and responsibility to yourself and others who will live in the home and who will visit you to have the home checked for radon in the lowest level of the dwelling, even if you will only use the lowest level for doing the laundry. Unless an Ohio Department of Health licensed radon tester, licensed radon mitigation specialist, or licensed radon mitigation contractor states in writing that the radon level is of low risk to you, no person or company is permitted to “approve,” “waive” or “certify” a document pertaining to radon conditions in a dwelling without being licensed by the Ohio Department of Health. If you determine that someone is performing this activity without a license, please phone 614-466-0061.

When a test is performed by an ODH licensed professional, it is vitally important that air conditions remain as stable as possible throughout the duration of the test period. If the windows are opened, this will affect the test results. If a rainstorm occurs, this will also affect the test results. The proper placement of the test kits or measurement devices is critical to the accuracy of the overall test. If the test kits or measurement devices are disturbed during a test, it is important to report this to the person performing the test.

Here are some USEPA documents that are available for you to use:

Home Buyers and Seller’s Guide To Radon

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/pdfs/hmbuygud.pdf>

Building Radon Out, A Step-By-Step Guide On How To Build Radon-Resistant Homes

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/pdfs/buildradonout.pdf>

A Citizen’s Guide To Radon, The Guide To Protecting Yourself and Your Family From Radon

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/pdfs/citizensguide.pdf>