



Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools

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TAKE ACTION: PROTECT STUDENTS AND STAFF FROM RADON

This January, to celebrate National Radon Action Month, U.S. EPA encourages you to test your school facilities for radon.

Radon—a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas—is one of the most hazardous indoor pollutants. It is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Without proper mitigation, radon can enter school facilities from the soil through cracks and openings in building foundations. Thousands of classrooms nationwide have radon levels above EPA's action level of 4 pCi/l (picocuries per liter), exposing occupants to this serious health risk. The *only* way to determine if your school building has elevated radon levels is to test.

Using the Framework for Effective School IAQ Management: [Key Drivers](#) can help you address radon risk as part of a comprehensive IAQ management program:

- **Organize:** Develop a systematic approach by using the [IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit](#) to tie your goals for radon testing to your overarching IAQ, health and environmental program goals. Establish a multidisciplinary team to plan for radon testing and mitigation, and develop district-wide [radon management procedures](#).
- **Communicate:** Include radon awareness as part of your overall IAQ management training and education efforts. Share your testing results, mitigation plans and follow-up testing plans. In cases of elevated radon levels, ensure that your mitigation plan is in place so you can communicate those plans to parents and staff.
- **Assess:** Perform radon testing in conjunction with your regular IAQ walkthroughs. If elevated radon levels are found, survey your building for potential radon entry points and mitigate.
- **Plan:** Working with your IAQ team, identify your action steps and set a schedule for your testing plan. Determine what type of test kits to use and which rooms will be tested. Your state radon program can help identify next steps and offer other guidance throughout the process of testing and mitigation.



- **Act:** Test according to your IAQ management plan. EPA suggests initial [short-term testing](#) in all frequently-occupied, ground contact rooms. Attend radon training to learn about radon and how to effectively test, mitigate and maintain radon reduction. Empower maintenance and facilities staff to become radon champions, school district staff will likely refer to them for answers about the testing plan and mitigation actions.
- **Evaluate:** Determine additional testing needs and follow-up. Schedule re-testing after all major renovations, and consider how HVAC modifications or upgrades may affect radon intrusion.

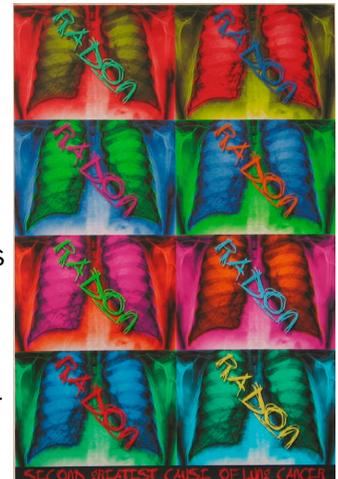
Learn more about radon testing and mitigation in your school district by visiting EPA's [radon home page](#), or contact your [state radon office](#) for local information about radon, and for state-specific recommendations for testing and mitigation.

EPA ANNOUNCES THE NATIONAL RADON POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

The Indoor Environments Division (IED) and Cooperative partner Kansas State University wish to congratulate the winners of this year's National Radon Poster Contest. Pictured (right) is the first place award winning poster created by a 13 year old student from Provo, Utah.

A total of over 4,000 entries were received from middle school students in 25 states. The four winners range in age from 11 through 13 years and represent Utah, Hawaii, New Jersey, and Iowa. Winning entries were chosen based on factors including content accuracy, visual communication of topic, reproducibility, and originality. The posters will be displayed as part of National Radon Action Month in January 2014. The complete list of national and state winners is available at: www.sosradon.org. For ideas on how to promote the winning posters as part of your radon outreach efforts, check out the [National Radon Poster Contest Outreach Kit](#).

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all participants!



QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about the *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance, please contact the IAQ Tools for Schools Connector Coordinator at IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance is a comprehensive resource designed to help schools maintain a healthy environment in school buildings by identifying, correcting and preventing IAQ problems. Learn more about the *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools>.