

# TAKE ACTION ON RADON

## WESTBANK FIRST NATION, BC

### 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge



### 37 HOMES

participated by testing for radon gas during the winters of 2020 and 2021. This represents less than 1% of the community dwellings.

**19%** of homes tested above Health Canada's guideline of 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>.



Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that comes from the ground.



Exposure to elevated levels of radon is linked to increased chances of developing lung cancer.



UNDER 100 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>  
(38%)



100-200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>  
(43%)

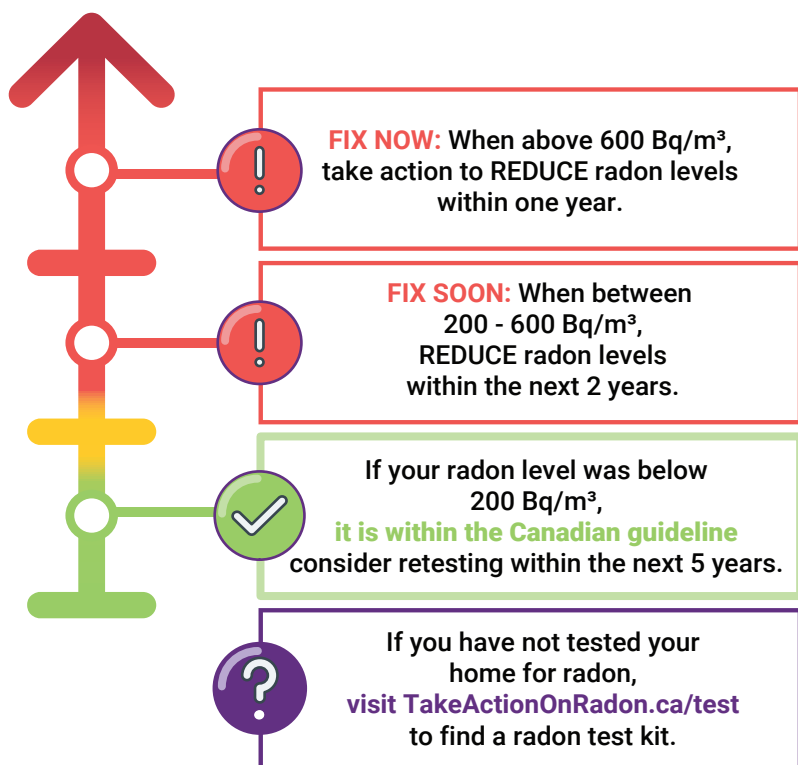


OVER 200 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>  
(19%)

Levels can vary between neighbouring houses. The only way to know your radon level is to test.



Radon enters a home through contact with the ground and can build up to elevated levels.

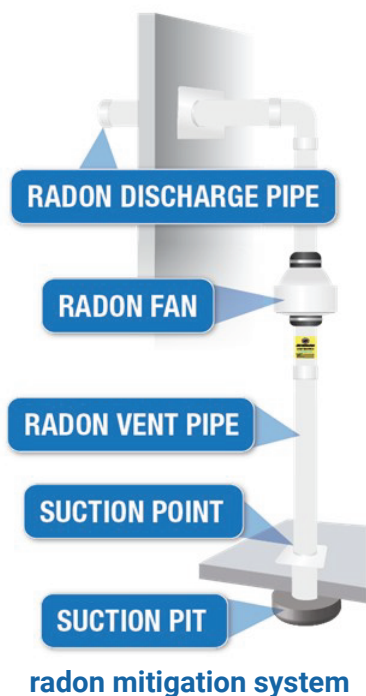


The BC Building Code requirements for radon vary by year and region. Some homes have a radon stub pipe or an extended pipe that runs through the house. These features are the beginning of a **radon mitigation system** and can make installation of an active system easier. **Long-term (91 day) radon testing is still necessary to determine if additional mitigation steps are required to reduce the radon levels in a new home.**

Radon gas levels are reduced the most by installing a **radon mitigation system**. Research shows that **certified radon professionals** can reduce levels by over 90%. Other steps, such as increasing ventilation and sealing cracks, can help in the short-term but are less effective.

Since radon levels fluctuate over time, testing with a long-term test (of at least 91 days) provides a better estimate of your annual radon exposure. Many digital detectors are available to purchase or to borrow for shorter test durations, but we still recommend testing for at least 91 days. If you borrow a digital monitor for a shorter test, consider following up with a long-term test.

A **radon mitigation system** is installed with a fan that draws air (and radon) up from beneath the foundation and discharges the radon to the outdoors where it disperses the radon to low levels. This system reduces radon levels by preventing radon from entering your home.



## HOW TO FIND A CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL

[TakeActionOnRadon.ca/test/find-a-radon-mitigation-professional/](https://TakeActionOnRadon.ca/test/find-a-radon-mitigation-professional/)

This report shows data from two years of testing. The data is broken down as following:

	2021-2022	2020-2021	TOTAL
	# of tests	# of tests	
Westbank	20	17	37
First Nation			

## Missed your chance to test?

Check out Take Action on Radon's website for more information on how to access a long-term (91-day) test kit in your region and how to properly test your home.



[TakeActionOnRadon.ca/test](https://TakeActionOnRadon.ca/test)

## Already tested and want to help?

If you are willing to share your data to help us better understand radon in your community, submit your information to our online radon depository.

[TakeActionOnRadon.ca/share](https://TakeActionOnRadon.ca/share)



*This project was supported by the BC Lung Foundation and a partial funding by the Vancouver Foundation and British Columbia Real Estate Foundation.*



[TakeActionOnRadon.ca](https://TakeActionOnRadon.ca)

Take Action on Radon is a national initiative funded by Health Canada with a mandate to bring together stakeholders and raise awareness on radon across Canada. The current advisory team is made up of the Canadian Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (CARST) and the Canadian Cancer Society.