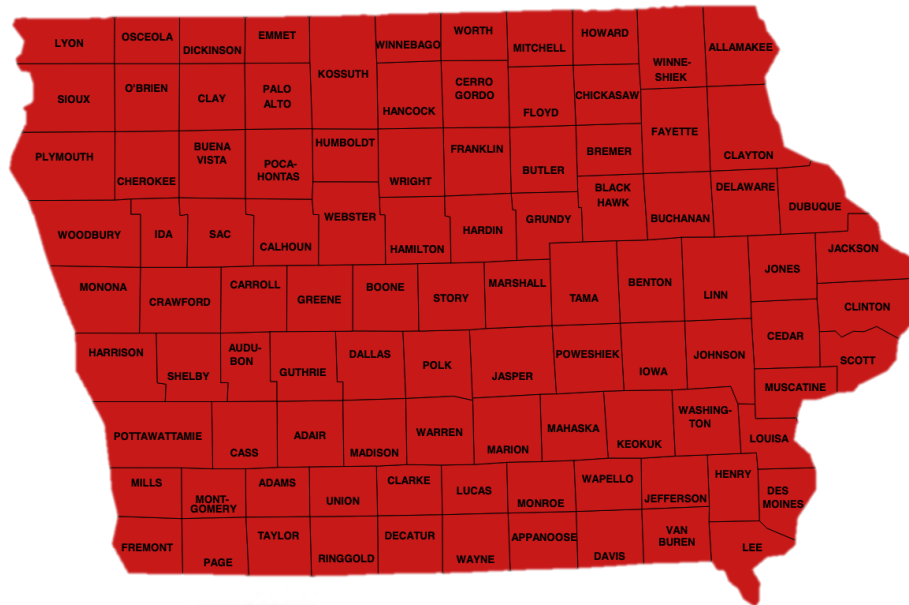


# Iowa Radon Fact Sheet



## Legend

- Zone 1 *Highest Potential (greater than 4 pCi/L)*
- Zone 2 *Moderate Potential (from 2 to 4 pCi/L)*
- Zone 3 *Low Potential (less than 2 pCi/L)*

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Website: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/radon/get-certified>

## Radon Facts

- An estimated 400 deaths per year in Iowa are caused by radon-induced lung cancer.
  - That is approximately the same number of people who die in traffic accidents each year.
    - (United States Environmental Protection Agency, US EPA, and Iowa Department of Transportation)
- U.S. EPA surveys in Iowa have found that 7 in 10 homes contain radon concentrations above the U.S. EPA's radon action level of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L).
- Iowa leads the nation in the percent of homes over the 4 pCi/L as well as percent of homes over 20 pCi/L.
- The average indoor radon concentration in Iowa is more than six times the national average.

# Iowa Radon Fact Sheet

## Iowa Cancer Control Plan (2023 - 2027)

### **Priority 7: Decrease exposure to radon.**

#### **Strategy A: Increase awareness and research around the connection between radon and cancer risk.**

##### **Action Steps:**

- Educate the public, health care providers, public health officials, school administrators, property owners, property managers and policymakers about radon and its link to lung cancer.
- Encourage home builders and realtors to educate clients regarding radon, cancer risk, testing, and mitigation.
- Support research and funding to increase the evidence for radon-related cancer risks.[35]
- Support research and funding to increase knowledge about the effects of climate change on radon levels.
- Enhance data collection to understand the impact of radon in different geographic and socioeconomic areas of the state.
- Promote continued research between the synergistic effect of radon, tobacco use, and secondhand smoke.

#### **Strategy B: Increase the testing for and mitigation of radon in homes and other buildings.**

##### **Action Steps:**

- Increase the percentage of Iowans who test their homes for radon and mitigate when needed.
- Increase the number of residential properties/units in low-income neighborhoods that test for radon and install radon mitigation equipment when indicated.
- Collaborate with cities, housing departments, and other organizations to develop initiatives that provide financial assistance for radon testing and mitigation.
- Require radon testing and mitigation in multi-housing units and rental housing.
- Support policies to require radon notification and disclosure during the real estate leasing transaction.
- Support efforts to implement the Gail Orcutt School Radon Safety Act requiring radon testing and mitigation in Iowa public schools ([HF2412](#)).
- Encourage development and dissemination of information regarding radon policies and education to radon professionals.

#### **Strategy C: Increase the number of residential and other buildings built or remodeled using radon reducing methods.**

##### **Action Steps:**

- Require newly constructed homes and buildings to be built using passive radon control methods according to the 2015 International Residential Building Code.
- Support workforce development for radon testing and mitigation professionals, especially for large buildings.

##### **Resources:**

1. The National Radon Action Plan 2021-2025: <https://www.epa.gov/radon/national-radon-action-plan-strategy-saving-lives>
2. Iowa HHS (Radon Program): <https://hhs.iowa.gov/radon/get-certified>
3. Iowa Radon Hotline: <https://www.lung.org/clean-air/at-home/indoor-air-pollutants/radon>

# Iowa Radon Fact Sheet

## Iowa Enacted Legislation

**Code of Iowa Code Chapter 136B "Radon Testing"** became statute in 1988. Iowa Administrative Code 641—Chapter 43, "Minimum Requirements for Radon Testing and Analysis," was also adopted in 1988 and established requirements for the certification of radon measurement specialists and radon measurement laboratories. Code of Iowa Chapter 136B was amended in 1989 and Iowa Administrative Code 641—Chapter 44 "Minimum Requirements for Radon Mitigation" was adopted and implemented to establish requirements for the credentialing of radon mitigation specialists. These provisions obligate the IDPH to credential and regulate the radon measurement and mitigation industry in Iowa.

**Iowa Administrative Code 441-109 "Child Care Centers"** requires testing of licensed childcare centers and preschools. If radon mitigation is in place, retesting shall occur at least every two years from initial measurements to confirm radon gas levels are below 4.0 pCi/L. If initial testing confirmed radon gas levels are below 4.0 pCi/L, retesting shall occur at least every five years from initial measurements. (IAC 441-109.11(7) d.)

**Iowa Administrative Code 193E-14 "Seller Property Condition Disclosure"** requires disclosure of radon testing by a home seller at time of closure and to provide the buyer with the "Iowa Home-Buyers and Sellers Fact Sheet"

### **New section added to Iowa Code Chapter 280 UNIFORM SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS; Section 280.32 Radon testing and mitigation**

Effective July 1, 2022, each public school district shall establish a radon plan and schedule for short-term tests for radon gas to be performed at each attendance center under its control at least once by July 1, 2027, and at least once every five years thereafter. Testing shall be conducted by an Iowa certified radon measurement specialist or by district employees that have completed an approved school radon testing training program. Testing shall be based on recognized national standards that outline school radon testing practices. If testing indicates radon levels at or above 4.0 pCi/L the public school district shall retain or employ an Iowa credentialed radon mitigation specialist to develop a radon mitigation plan. All new school construction shall incorporate radon resistant construction techniques.