



INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE RADON TEST

IMPORTANT: Do not open the silver plastic bag that the radon detector is sealed in until you are ready to start the test.

How to set up your radon detector

1. Determine a suitable location to place the detector. For a description of suitable locations, please see the section below.
2. Take the detector out of its heat-sealed bag by cutting the end off of the bag with scissors.
3. Verify that your radon detector number matches the detector number printed on the first page of your questionnaire. The detector number is on a white sticker on the top of the detector. It starts with the letter A, and has 6 digits afterwards. If the numbers do not match, cross out the number printed on the questionnaire and write the number that appears on the top of your radon detector beside it.
4. Place the detector flat and face up (with the detector number facing up).
5. **Record the test start time and date** on page 1 of the questionnaire. This information is critical for an accurate reading of the radon levels in your home. Be sure to record the location on page 2 of the questionnaire as well.
6. Leave the detector undisturbed in its location for **3 months (91 days)**. You may find it helpful to circle the future stop date (91 days from the start date above) on your calendar now as a reminder for when it comes time to end the radon test.
7. Keep the questionnaire; silver radon-proof zip-top bag; and postage-paid return envelope in a safe place. You will need these **three** items to return your detector after the 91-day testing period.

Ending the test

1. After 91 days, put the detector into the silver radon-proof zip-top bag that was supplied with the mailing package and **zip it closed**.
2. **Record the test stop time and date** on the questionnaire. This information is critical for an accurate reading of the radon levels in your home. Health Canada will not be able to process your detector without the test duration (start and stop date) information.
3. Place the zip-top bag containing the detector and the completed questionnaire into the pre-paid and pre-labelled mailing envelope provided, and mail the package back to Health Canada Radiation Protection Bureau as soon as possible.

We thank you in advance for completing the radon test and for promptly sending the detector back to our lab for analysis after the 91-day test period. Your contribution will help Health Canada learn more about indoor radon levels across Canada.



Suitable Locations

The detector should be placed on the lowest level of your home where someone normally spends a minimum of 4 hours per day. Suitable locations include family rooms, living rooms, dens, playrooms, and bedrooms. Locations that are **not** suitable include kitchens, bathrooms, laundry rooms, closets, and unfinished areas of a basement.

For example, if you have a bedroom or family room where someone spends at least 4 hours a day in your basement, place the detector in one of these rooms. If you don't have a basement, or someone doesn't spend at least four hours a day in your basement, place the detector in a room on the main floor where someone spends at least four hours a day.

The detector can be placed on any flat surface, such as a desk, table, or shelf. The best location for the detector is 40 cm (16 inches) from an interior wall at a height of 0.8 m to 2 m (3 to 6.5 feet) from the floor. Try to place the detector at least 50 cm (20 inches) from the ceiling or exterior wall and 20 cm (8 inches) from other objects.

The detector should **not** be placed near drafts caused by high-volume air conditioning or heating system vents, or near windows or doors. Avoid locations near excessive heat, such as direct strong sunlight and fireplaces.

A few photographs illustrating typical detector locations are shown below; however, we leave it up to you to find the place that is most suitable in your home.



The radon detectors are harmless and do not emit any radiation. These devices are small and sensitive and, as much as possible, the detector should not be touched or moved during the 91-day testing period. Try to keep the detector out of the reach of children, or, if this is not possible, children should be instructed not to touch them. In order for a radon test to be valid, the test devices should not be touched, moved or manipulated in any way during the testing period.