

RADON DISCLOSURE

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This document, dated _____, concerns the real property located at:
[street address] _____
and legally described as:

MINNESOTA RADON AWARENESS ACT

Minn. Stat. Section 144.496 (2013)

Subdivision 1. Citation. This section may be cited as the "Minnesota Radon Awareness Act."

Subd. 2. Definitions. (a) The following terms used in this section have the meanings given them.

(b) "Buyer" means a person negotiating or offering to acquire for value, legal or equitable title, or the right to acquire legal or equitable title to residential real property.

(c) "Mitigation" means measures designed to permanently reduce indoor radon concentrations.

(d) "Radon test" means a measurement of indoor radon concentrations according to established industry standards for residential real property.

(e) "Residential real property" means property occupied as, or intended to be occupied as, a single-family residence, including a unit in a common interest community as defined in section 515B.1-103, clause (10), regardless of whether the unit is in a common interest community not subject to chapter 515B.

(f) "Seller" means a person who owns legal or equitable title to residential real property.

(g) "Elevated radon concentration" means a radon concentration at or above the United States Environmental Protection Agency's radon action level.

Subd. 3. Radon disclosure. (a) Before signing an agreement to sell or transfer residential real property, the seller shall disclose in writing to the buyer any knowledge the seller has of radon concentrations in the dwelling. The disclosure shall include:

- (1) whether a radon test or tests have occurred on the real property;
- (2) the most current records and reports pertaining to radon concentrations within the dwelling;
- (3) a description of any radon concentrations, mitigation, or remediation;
- (4) information regarding the radon mitigation system, including system description and documentation, if such system has been installed in the dwelling; and
- (5) a radon warning statement meeting the requirements of subdivision 4.

(b) The seller shall provide the buyer with a copy of the Minnesota Department of Health publication entitled "Radon in Real Estate Transactions."

(c) The seller's radon disclosure requirements in this section apply to the transfer of any interest in residential real estate, whether by sale, exchange, deed, contract for deed, lease with an option to purchase, or any other option.

(d) The seller's radon disclosure requirements in this section do not apply to any of the following:

- (1) real property that is not residential real property;
- (2) a gratuitous transfer;
- (3) a transfer made pursuant to a court order;
- (4) a transfer to a government or governmental agency;
- (5) a transfer by foreclosure or deed in lieu of foreclosure;
- (6) a transfer to heirs or devisees of a decedent;

- (7) a transfer from a cotenant to one or more other cotenants;
- (8) a transfer made to a spouse, parent, grandparent, child, or grandchild of the seller;
- (9) a transfer between spouses resulting from a decree of marriage dissolution or from a property settlement agreement incidental to that decree;
- (10) an option to purchase a unit in a common interest community, until exercised;
- (11) a transfer to a person who controls or is controlled by the grantor as those terms are defined with respect to a declarant under section 515B.1-103, clause (2);
- (12) a transfer to a tenant who is in possession of the residential real property; or
- (13) a transfer of special declarant rights under section 515B.3-104.

(e) A seller may provide the written disclosure required under this section to a real estate licensee representing or assisting a prospective buyer. The written disclosure provided to the real estate licensee representing or assisting a prospective buyer is considered to have been provided to the prospective buyer. If the written disclosure is provided to the real estate licensee representing or assisting the prospective buyer, the real estate licensee must provide a copy to the prospective buyer.

Subd. 4. Radon warning statement. The radon warning statement must include the following language: Radon Warning Statement. "The Minnesota Department of Health strongly recommends that ALL homebuyers have an indoor radon test performed prior to purchase or taking occupancy, and recommends having the radon levels mitigated if elevated radon concentrations are found. Elevated radon concentrations can easily be reduced by a qualified, certified, or licensed, if applicable, radon mitigator."

"Every buyer of any interest in residential real property is notified that the property may present exposure to dangerous levels of indoor radon gas that may place the occupants at risk of developing radon-induced lung cancer. Radon, a Class A human carcinogen, is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers and the second leading cause overall. The seller of any interest in residential real property is required to provide the buyer with any information on radon test results of the dwelling."

Subd. 5. Liability; transfer not invalidated. (a) A seller who fails to make a radon disclosure as required by this section, and is aware of material facts pertaining to radon concentrations in the dwelling, is liable to the buyer.

(b) A buyer who is injured by a violation of this section may bring a civil action and recover damages and receive other equitable relief as determined by the court. An action under this subdivision must be commenced within two years after the date on which the buyer closed the purchase or transfer of the real property.

(c) This section does not invalidate a transfer solely because of the failure of any person to comply with a provision of this section. This section does not prevent a court from ordering a rescission of the transfer.

Subd. 6. Effective date. This section is effective January 1, 2014, and applies to agreements to sell or transfer residential real property executed on or after that date.

Radon Warning Statement

"The Minnesota Department of Health strongly recommends that ALL home buyers have an indoor radon test performed prior to purchase or taking occupancy, and recommends having the radon levels mitigated if elevated radon concentrations are found. Elevated radon concentrations can easily be reduced by a qualified, certified, or licensed, if applicable, radon mitigator.

Every buyer of any interest in residential real property is notified that the property may present exposure to dangerous levels of indoor radon gas that may place the occupants at risk of developing radon-induced lung cancer. Radon, a Class A human carcinogen, is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers and the second leading cause overall. The seller of any interest in residential real property is required to provide the buyer with any information on radon test results of the dwelling."

Seller's Disclosure of Radon

Seller, answer each question with a check for "yes" or "no" where indicated or "unknown."

	Yes	No	Unknown
Seller has knowledge of radon concentrations in the dwelling.			
One or more radon tests have been conducted in the dwelling.			
Seller has records or reports pertaining to radon concentrations within the dwelling. <i>If Seller has answered "yes," then the most current records and reports pertaining to radon concentrations within the dwelling are attached.</i>			
Has a mitigation system been installed? <i>If Seller has answered "yes," then information regarding the radon mitigation system, including system description and documentation, is attached.</i>			
Radon concentrations at or above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Radon Action Level are known to be present within the dwelling.			
Radon concentrations have been mitigated to below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Radon Action Level.			

Seller(s) signatures: _____

[date] _____

Buyer received this Disclosure and the brochure entitled "Radon in Real Estate Transactions" published by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Buyer(s) signatures: _____



Radon in Real Estate Transactions

All Minnesota homes can have dangerous levels of radon gas. Radon is a colorless, odorless and tasteless **radioactive gas** that can seep into homes from the soil. When inhaled, its radioactive particles can damage the lungs. Long-term exposure to radon can lead to **lung cancer**. About 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States are caused by radon.

The only way to know how much radon gas has entered the home is to conduct a radon test. MDH estimates 2 in 5 homes exceed the 4.0 pCi/L (picocuries per liter) action level. Whether a home is old or new, **any home can have high levels of radon.**

The purpose of this publication is to educate and inform potential home buyers of the risks of radon exposure, and how to test for and reduce radon as part of real estate transactions.

Disclosure Requirements

Effective January 1, 2014, the Minnesota Radon Awareness Act requires specific disclosure and education be provided to potential home buyers during residential real estate transactions in Minnesota. **Before signing a purchase agreement to sell or transfer residential real property**, the seller shall provide this publication and shall disclose in writing to the buyer:

1. whether a radon test or tests have occurred on the property
2. the most current records and reports pertaining to radon concentrations within the dwelling
3. a description of any radon levels, mitigation, or remediation
4. information on the radon mitigation system, if a system was installed
5. a radon warning statement

Radon Facts

How dangerous is radon? Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers, and the second leading cause overall. Your risk for lung cancer increases with higher levels of radon, prolonged exposure, and whether or not you are a current smoker or former smoker.

Where is your greatest exposure to radon? For most Minnesotans, your greatest exposure is at home where radon can concentrate indoors.

What is the recommended action based on my results? If the average radon in the home is at or above 4.0 pCi/L, the home's radon level should be reduced. Also, consider mitigating if radon levels are between 2.0 pCi/L and 3.9 pCi/L. Any amount of radon, even below the recommended action level, carries some risk.

Radon Warning Statement

"The Minnesota Department of Health strongly recommends that ALL homebuyers have an indoor radon test performed prior to purchase or taking occupancy, and recommends having the radon levels mitigated if elevated radon concentrations are found. Elevated radon concentrations can easily be reduced by a qualified, certified, or licensed, if applicable, radon mitigator.

Every buyer of any interest in residential real property is notified that the property may present exposure to dangerous levels of indoor radon gas that may place the occupants at risk of developing radon-induced lung cancer. Radon, a Class A human carcinogen, is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers and the second leading cause overall. The seller of any interest in residential real property is required to provide the buyer with any information on radon test results of the dwelling".

Radon Testing

Any test lasting less than three months requires **closed-house conditions**. This means keep all windows and doors closed, except for normal entry and exit.

Before testing: Begin closed-house conditions at least 12 hours before the start of the radon test.

During testing: Maintain closed-house conditions during the entire duration of the short-term test. Operate home heating or cooling systems normally during the test.

Where should the test be conducted? Any radon test conducted for a real estate transaction needs to be placed in the lowest livable area of the home suitable for occupancy. This is typically in the basement, whether finished or unfinished.

Place the test kit:

- twenty inches to six feet above the floor
- at least three feet from exterior walls
- four inches away from other objects
- in a location where it won't be disturbed
- not in enclosed areas or areas of high heat or humidity

How are radon tests conducted in real estate transactions?

There are special protocols for radon testing in real estate transactions. Here are the two most common.

Continuous Radon Monitor

This test is completed by a certified radon measurement professional with a calibrated CRM for a minimum of 48 hours. The data is analyzed to ensure a valid test. A report is generated by the measurement professional.

Simultaneous Short-Term Testing

Two short-term test kits are used at the same time, placed 4 inches apart, for a minimum of 48 hours. Test kits are sent to the lab for analysis. The lab generates a report. The two test results are averaged to get the radon level.

All radon tests should be conducted by a certified and MDH-listed professional. This ensures the test was conducted properly, in the correct location, and under appropriate building conditions. A list of these radon measurement professionals can be found at MDH's Radon web site.

Radon Mitigation

When elevated levels of radon are found, they can be easily reduced by a nationally certified and MDH-listed radon mitigation professional.

Radon mitigation is the process or system used to reduce radon concentrations in the breathing zones of occupied buildings. The goal of a radon mitigation system is to reduce the indoor radon levels to below the action level. This is done by drawing soil gas from under the house and venting it above the roof. A quality mitigation system is often able to reduce the annual average radon level to below 2.0 pCi/L. The cost of a radon mitigation system averages \$1,200 to \$2,500.

After a radon mitigation system is installed perform an independent short-term test to ensure the reduction system is effective. Operate the radon system during the entire test. This short-term test will confirm low levels in the home. Be sure to retest the house every two years to confirm continued radon reduction.

Radon Information on the Web:
www.health.state.mn.us/radon

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