

# Radon Testing

## for child care providers

**Radon** is a radioactive gas that has no smell, color, or taste. It comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in the ground. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among people who don't smoke. Radon-related lung cancer can be prevented if we reduce the amount of radon in buildings where people live, work, and attend school and child care. **All licensed family and group child care centers in Wisconsin are required to test for radon.** Testing for radon in your center may look different depending on whether your center is a family or group care center. This frequently asked questions (FAQs) guide will help you know what to expect.



### Family Care Centers



### Group Care Centers

## FAQ

#### Who should test my center for radon?

You can test your center yourself using a short-term radon test kit. You can purchase a test kit from a local hardware store or your [regional Radon Information Center](#). While not required, you may also hire a [certified radon measurement contractor](#).

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) requires one short-term radon test at a minimum. However, testing a non-residential building is complex. It is best practice to use a [certified radon measurement contractor](#) to understand the true risk of radon in your building.

#### What is the cost of testing for radon?

A short-term test kit costs \$10–\$30 per test. Check for discounted short-term radon test kits at your [regional Radon Information Center](#). A certified radon measurement contractor will charge between \$125 and \$150 for a residential building. The child care center is responsible for these costs.

A certified radon measurement contractor will charge from \$500 to \$1500 to test a non-residential building. The cost of testing varies by size of the facility. The child care center is responsible for these costs. To find a certified radon measurement professional serving your county, visit [www.lowradon.org](http://www.lowradon.org).

#### How should I test for radon in my building?

Test for at least 48 hours in the lowest level of the center that is used by children in care for at least seven hours per week. The winter months are the best time to test. Keep windows and doors closed during testing. Refer to test kit instructions or [www.lowradon.org](http://www.lowradon.org) for more information on how to test.

Test for at least 48 hours in the lowest level of the center that is used by children in care for at least seven hours per week. In commercial buildings, you'll need to test more places, including every classroom in contact with the ground. Using a [certified radon measurement contractor](#) is recommended.

#### When do I need to test for radon?

New providers must test for radon within six months of providing care for children. Within five days of receiving results, you must submit a copy to your licensing specialist or DCF [regional office](#).

Test your center **every two years** after the initial test date, no matter what the result is.

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