



Kentucky Association of Radon Professionals

Consumer Alert: Specific steps to assist you in choosing the right radon company for your installation.

Kentucky does not require radon testing or remediation companies to be trained, licensed or insured. Keep in mind as you evaluate companies that radon is a Class A human carcinogen – only highly trained professionals should be designing and installing systems to exhaust this harmful gas from your home or other property. For your protection, we recommend you carefully consider the following items so you can make an informed decision when choosing the best company to handle your radon control project:

- Kentucky does have a state radon control office that is part of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. You may contact this office with any questions you may have regarding radon testing and mitigation in Kentucky. The Kentucky Radon Program is available online at: <http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/info/phps/radongas.htm> or by calling 502-564-4856.
- In lieu of no state regulations, we recommend checking to ensure the contractor is nationally certified and in good standing with the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) or the National Radon Safety Board (NRSB). These are the certification agencies designated by the US EPA to administer the national radon certification program. Contact NEHA online at: <http://www.radongas.org> or by calling 800-269-4174. Contact NRSB online at: <http://www.nrsb.org> or by calling 866-329-3474. Certification is very important in assessing qualifications but this should only be part of your due diligence. Keep in mind a nationally certified individual has simply taken a class, passed an exam and paid certification fees. This does not mean all certified companies adhere to equal levels of proficiency, quality control and business practices.
- Ensure the contractor is properly insured. A common practice by some companies is to use a home inspection radon testing policy that does not cover radon mitigation and pollution control. Ask for written verification of current coverage that includes professional liability insurance specifically for radon mitigation and pollution control (radon and pollution will both be clearly stated on the certificate). Any reputable company will be able to quickly provide this information to you upon your request.
- Ensure the contractor is using licensed electricians to properly wire your fan. Wiring a radon fan without proper electrical licensure is a violation of Kentucky law. Ask for written verification of the electric company's state license and their insurance coverage naming the radon contractor as an additional insured on their policy. Again, any reputable company will be able to quickly provide this information to you upon your request.

- Obtain a written agreement that specifically states the radon system installed will be in full compliance with current endorsed US EPA standards (currently ASTM 2121-03). Unfortunately, many systems in our marketplace are not installed properly and sometimes create a greater health risk than if the home did not have a radon reduction system at all. Make sure you enter into a written agreement stating the standards that will be followed by your mitigation company. The current standards are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/radon>.
- Ask for a copy of the annual calibration certificate for the specific machine that will be used to validate your radon levels are reduced after your system has been installed (the serial number will be located on both the calibration statement and the testing device). A machine that isn't calibrated annually can often provide inaccurate information on radon levels. Any reputable company will be able to provide this information to you upon your request. Make sure you obtain written verification – simply accepting a verbal assurance is not in your best interest!
- Check with the Secretary of State to ensure any contractor you may be considering is registered to do business and in good standing with the state. Contact the Secretary of State online at: <http://apps.sos.ky.gov/business/obdb/default.aspx> or by calling 502-564-3490.
- Finally, check with the Better Business Bureau (BBB) to ensure the company you hire is in good standing. Contact the BBB online at: <http://www.bbb.org> or by calling your local BBB office. The BBB can be a valuable resource in determining whether or not to do business with a specific company.
- A final note to persons selling their home who must install a radon reduction system as part of the transaction – do not place yourself in a position of liability! You may want to consider simply providing a credit to be used by the buyer to have their system installed. This allows the buyer to choose the radon mitigation company, taking responsibility (and liability) for this important decision. If providing a credit to the buyer is not possible, we urge you to choose wisely – fixing an improperly installed system is often times as expensive as installing a new compliant system!

The Kentucky Association of Radon Professionals is an organization consisting of responsible radon testing, remediation and laboratory analysis companies, public health and consumer advocates. The goal of the organization is to promote radon awareness throughout the state, and to assist Kentucky citizens in creating healthier indoor air environments. For more information, click on to: www.KentuckyRadon.org.