

Grant Program to Offer Limited Supply of Free Home Test Kits

Radon continues to be recognized as a public health concern in certain sections of New Jersey and Somerset County. In this regard, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has designated January as Radon Awareness Month.

The Bridgewater Health Department, in conjunction with the New Jersey Radon Awareness Program (NJRAP), will offer a limited supply of free radon test kits to interested Township residents. These home test kits are available through a NJRAP grant award. One test kit per local household will be available to residents on a first come, first serve basis. A New Jersey certified laboratory will provide a written report for your reference after test kit return and analysis.

Radon is an odorless, tasteless and invisible gas that occurs naturally in soil. It is produced by the natural breakdown of uranium and radium in rock formations. Radon gas has the ability to accumulate in your home. Prolonged exposure to radon gas at elevated levels may contribute to the development of lung cancer. It is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in general. Radon exposure is estimated to contribute to 21,000 lung cancer deaths annually on a national level.

Residents are encouraged to contact the Health Department to verify the availability of radon test kits during the month of January. Radon test kits may also be available for purchase at local hardware stores and home improvement centers. For further information on radon testing or mitigation, please contact the Health Department by telephone at (908) 725-5750 or via email at health@bridgewaternj.gov. Further information on radon is also available from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection at (800) 648-0394 or visit www.njradon.org.