



Madison County ~ Radon Report

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Extension offers free Radon Information Class

The Madison County Extension System is offering a **FREE class** for area homeowners to better understand the problems associated with elevated levels of radon in their homes.

The class, taught by Jack Hughes, Associate Director of the Southern Regional Radon Training Center of the Auburn School of Engineering, will cover the following topics:


- What is radon and how it gets in your house
- Health hazards of living with elevated levels of radon
- How to test for radon
- What can be done to reduce radon levels in your home

The class will be held **Saturday, Sept. 2, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the James I. Dawson Building Auditorium, on the Alabama A&M Campus.** The campus is located on Meridian Street in North Huntsville off N. Memorial Pkwy, just south of the intersection of Winchester and Meridian Street.

For more information, call Sabrina Hill at the Madison County Extension office, (256) 532-1578 or e-mail her at shill@acesag.auburn.edu

TIP FOR RADON TESTING

- ❖ ***Test kits should be placed in the lowest lived in level of the home. It should be put in a room that is used regularly but not the kitchen or bathroom.***



Radon is the second leading cause of cancer
(cigarette smoking is first)

The only way to be sure you don't have health-threatening levels of radon in your home is to test!

What is Karst and what does it mean to Madison County?

Sabrina Hill

Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Karst is a geological term that means the subsoil rock is permeable or easily erodable when water contacts it. The eroding rocks, such as limestone, result in sinkholes and underground streams and caverns. With the presence of radioactive rock such as uranium decaying over time and producing Radium, then Radon, you have the potential for a health risk in the very place you should feel safe. In geographical areas where the subsoil layers are sand and impermeable rock, the radon takes longer to move through the rock layers and into human living spaces. In karst geology that is not the case. The cracks, fissures and openings in the earth, as well as the fact that it is the limestone, shale and porous rock that primarily comprise karst, allow radon ready access to human living spaces. The radon can move so rapidly and levels are so variable in a karst area that there is a different standard for testing.

The northern part of the state of Alabama is a karst area. Caves are an integral part of karst geology. There are approximately 3,900 known caves in the North Alabama area. It is for this reason the EPA, Alabama Department of Public Health and the ACES Radon Team recommend that only Long Term Alpha Track Detectors be used to test for Radon Gas in Alabama's karst counties, such as Madison, Morgan, Lauderdale, Colbert, Limestone and Jackson. While this type of test takes longer, 3 to 12 months to get results, it is by far a more accurate reading of the actual radon levels you are being exposed to in your home. The longer period of time, up to 1 full year, you test your home, the more accurate and reliable will be the results.

You can purchase a "Long Term" Radon Test Kit at cost at the County Extension Office in any of the karst counties.

For more information visit our web site at: <http://www.aces.edu/department/crd/radon-pubs.html>



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