



Nash County
North Carolina
Where Business meets Opportunity

NASH COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

Health Department Environmental Health

William W. Hill, Jr.
Director

120 W. Washington Street, Suite 2127
P.O. Box 849
Nashville, NC 27856
Phone: (252) 459-9829
Fax: (252) 462-2410

Questions or Concerns with Radon, Radium and Uranium

A recent study in Wake County has revealed a potentially unsafe level of uranium, radon and/or radium in drinking water. The drinking water affected is in **ONLY** private water wells. If you pay a water bill then you have public water and your drinking water is not affected. The presence of uranium, radon and/or radium in your drinking water is due to the naturally occurring ground make up of Late Paleozoic Granites and Granodiorites. This rock type is associated with elevated levels of uranium, radon and radium. When these elements make their way into your home or drinking water, they can be a health concern over a long period of time.

What are the Health Risks?

Consuming water that has high levels of uranium over an extended period of time can elevate the risk for kidney toxicity. Certain cancers have also been linked to consuming uranium, radon and/or radium contaminated water over a long period of time.

How do I know if my home or well is affected?

The rock that can release the elements has been located in a small portion of Western Nash County located south of Castalia and north of Spring Hope along the Franklin County Line as well as some small isolated areas along the I-95 corridor. If you have concerns that your home and well may be located in an affected area, please follow the link below to a map of the Geology of North Carolina. This map indicates the geological terranes and major geologic elements that are located in all areas of North Carolina. Use your mouse to scroll to your location. The area that may be affected is in the Late Paleozoic intrusives, represented by a light pink color.

<https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=0a7ccd9394734ff6aa2434d2528ddf12>

How do I have my well water tested?

Nash County Environmental Health does not offer this testing directly. The only way to be certain that your private well water is free of uranium, radium and radon is to have it tested by a private certified laboratory. If you are in one of the affected areas and wish to have your well water tested, the following link takes you to the North Carolina State Lab Web Page. Although the North Carolina State Lab does not perform the test, they have created a page in which you can select the component of concern and search for a Certified Laboratory that will perform the test.

<https://slphreporting.ncpublichealth.com/Certification/CertifiedLaboratory.asp>

The following link has a list of laboratories that have been certified to test for uranium, radium and radon:

<https://www.nashcountync.gov/672/Uranium-Radium-Radon-Water-Testing>

Radon Kits can be obtained from:

http://www.ncradon.org/Order_Test_Kit.html

What do I do if my well water is contaminated with uranium, radon or radium?

If your well water is **tested** and **confirmed** to be contaminated with a toxic level of uranium, radon and/or radium, then stop consumption immediately. Consume only bottled water until the issue is resolved. A water treatment system that uses reverse osmosis or anion exchange can be installed. Another option is to disconnect from the well and connect to public water where available. You can check the availability of public water by contacting your local municipality or Nash County Public Utilities (252-462-2436)

Additional Resources:

EPA: Uranium <https://www.epa.gov/radiation/radionuclide-basics-uranium>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/radon/>

The North Carolina Radon Program through NCDHHS (828-712-0972)

5505 Creedmore Rd, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27612

<http://www.ncradon.org/Home.html>

Nash County Environmental Health Department (252-459-9829)