



Welcome back to the Homeowners Newsletter!

The Holiday Season is fast upon us! As 2011 winds down, we would like to say **“Thank you”** to each and every one of our clients and referrals for honoring us with your business! We know you have a choice, so we appreciate each opportunity to serve your inspection and radon measurement needs.

As always, if there are subjects you would like to see addressed, please contact us and tell us what you would like to see.



Living With Radon

We are often asked, “Why should I pay you to conduct a Radon Test when I can do it myself?” *Good question. Let’s try to answer.*

First, you can get an accurate radon level in your home by using a charcoal canister device. There are, however, advantages to using a radon professional to measure the indoor radon level of your home. Most radon professionals use active monitors (they are powered) to measure radon. APEX always uses active monitors when conducting tests. The accuracy of these units is not necessarily better than charcoal canisters, but the reliability of active monitors is a definite advantage. Weather conditions can seriously affect the measurement. For example, a low pressure system or thunderstorm can cause a “spike” in radon. With our active monitors, we produce a graphic display of the individual hourly readings (our typical short-term test is 48 hours) so we can quickly spot and highlight any abnormal swings in radon level during the test. Passive devices, such as charcoal canisters, cannot do this.

Secondly, you have a trained professional at hand to explain your results, answer your questions, and recommend your next steps. You can be assured the test was done using EPA protocols regarding test location and proper conditions for the measurement. If a follow-up is needed, we’ll perform the test at no additional cost. We want you to make important decisions knowing you have valid test results.

Your November “Do List”

With the Holiday season approaching, we decided to “take it easy” and not throw a huge list of things to do at you this month. Instead, please review the September and October newsletters to make sure you accomplished everything on those lists that was applicable to your home. If you don’t have those issues of our newsletter, you can find them at www.apex-hi.com, on the INFO CENTER page. So, if you haven’t done them already, clean those lists up and enjoy the holidays!

Tip of the Month – Holiday Safety

During the holidays, more home fires start in the kitchen than in any other room in the house. So, it’s not surprising that more kitchen fires start on Thanksgiving than on any other day during the year. The best way to stop a cooking fire is before it starts...

- Cooks need to stay in the kitchen. You should never leave a cooking pot or oven unattended, even for just a minute.
- Designate the area around the stove as “kid free” and be sure to keep dishtowels and other things that can burn well away from the stove. When cooking, it’s also a good idea to turn the handles of pots inward in case small children do enter the kid-free zone and reach for the handles.

For those of you using deep-fryers to cook your turkey this season, the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends the following safety guidelines:

- Keep fryer in FULL VIEW while burner is on.
- Place fryer in an open area AWAY from all walls, fences, or other structures.
- Never use IN, ON, or UNDER a garage, breezeway, carport, porch, or any structure that can catch fire.
- Raise and lower food SLOWLY to reduce splatter and avoid burns.
- COVER bare skin when adding or removing food.
- Check the oil temperature frequently.
- If oil begins to smoke, immediately turn gas supply OFF.
- If a fire occurs, immediately use a fire extinguisher or call 911. DO NOT attempt to extinguish fire with water.