

Radon Tester Vetting Guide

How to verify credentials and hire a qualified radon testing professional

- ✓ NRPP and NRSB certifications explained
- ✓ State licensing requirements and how to verify
- ✓ 10 red flags that indicate an unqualified tester
- ✓ Sample vetting questionnaire you can send to providers

Understanding Radon Tester Certifications

Two national organizations certify radon professionals in the United States: the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) and the National Radon Safety Board (NRSB). Both are recognized by the EPA. Understanding the certification types helps you hire the right professional — whether you need measurement only or measurement plus mitigation.

Certification Hierarchy

Level	Certification	Issuing Body	What It Proves
Technician	RMT (Radon Measurement Technician)	NRSB	Can place and retrieve devices UNDER SUPERVISION of RMS. Entry-level. 16 hours training + exam
Professional	Radon Measurement Professional	NRPP	Independently qualified to perform radon measurement. 16-hour course + proctored exam. ANSI/ISO 17024 accredited
Specialist	RMS (Radon Measurement Specialist)	NRSB	Full independent measurement authority. Can supervise RMTs. 16 hours training + exam
Mitigation	Radon Mitigation Professional	NRPP	Qualified to design and install mitigation systems. Separate from measurement certification
Mitigation	RMP (Radon Mitigation Provider)	NRSB	Designs and installs mitigation systems. Separate from measurement
Analytical	ARL (Accredited Radon Laboratory)	NRSB	Accredited to analyze radon test devices

NRPP and NRSB are equally valid.

Both are recognized by the EPA and accepted in all states that require certification. Some states accept either; some require a specific one. Always verify the tester's active certification status.

Full Certification Comparison

Attribute	NRPP Measurement	NRSB RMS	NRPP Mitigation	NRSB RMP
Full Name	Radon Measurement Professional	Radon Measurement Specialist	Radon Mitigation Professional	Radon Mitigation Provider
Issuing Body	NRPP (AARST-NRPP)	NRSB	NRPP (AARST-NRPP)	NRSB
Training Required	16 hours (approved provider)	16 hours (approved provider)	32 hours	32 hours
Exam Required	Yes — proctored	Yes — proctored	Yes — proctored	Yes — proctored
Accreditation	ANSI/ISO 17024 (ANAB)	EPA-recognized	ANSI/ISO 17024	EPA-recognized
Certification Period	2 years	2 years	2 years	2 years
CE Requirements	8 hours per renewal cycle	8 hours per renewal cycle	16 hours per renewal cycle	16 hours per renewal cycle
Verification URL	nrpp.info	nrsb.org	nrpp.info	nrsb.org
Scope	Measurement only	Measurement only	Mitigation design + install	Mitigation design + install

Measurement ≠ Mitigation.

A certified radon tester is not automatically qualified to install a mitigation system, and vice versa. Verify that your professional holds the specific certification for the service you need.

State Licensing Requirements

Two-column layout

States That Require Radon Professional Licensing

Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia (and others — list grows annually)

States That Accept NRPP/NRSB Without Additional State Licensing

Most remaining states accept national certification. However, even unlicensed states may require radon professionals to register or carry specific insurance.

- **Illinois:** Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) requires state certification. Must hold NRPP or NRSB + pass state exam. Verify at iemaohs.illinois.gov.
- **New Jersey:** Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) certification required. Requires NRPP/NRSB + state application. Verify at nj.gov/dep.
- **Pennsylvania:** Department of Environmental Protection certification. Testing and mitigation require separate state certifications. Verify at dep.pa.gov.
- **Ohio:** Department of Health licenses radon testers and mitigators. Requires NRPP/NRSB + state license. Verify at odh.ohio.gov.
- **Minnesota:** Department of Health licensing required. Radon Awareness Act requires real estate disclosure.

Always verify certification is CURRENT. Both NRPP and NRSB certifications expire every 2 years. A lapsed certification means the professional hasn't completed continuing education and may not be insured. Verify at nrpp.info or nrsb.org before hiring.

How to Verify Credentials

Step-by-step verification process

Ask the tester for their NRPP or NRSB certification number and whether they are certified for measurement, mitigation, or both.

Verify through the issuing organization's public directory:

- NRPP: nrpp.info (search by name, location, or certification number)
- NRSB: nrsb.org (search by name, location, or certification number)

In licensing states, verify the state license separately. National certification and state licensing are different — you need both where required.

Confirm the certification is current (not expired). Look for the expiration date in the directory listing.

Ask about insurance. Professional liability (E&O) insurance and general liability coverage are standard for reputable testers.

For real estate transactions, verify that the tester uses calibrated equipment and follows EPA/AARST testing protocols. Ask for proof of device calibration.

Device calibration matters.

Continuous radon monitors (CRMs) must be calibrated annually. Ask when the device was last calibrated and by whom. An uncalibrated device produces unreliable results — and those results may not hold up in a real estate transaction.

10 Red Flags of an Unqualified Radon Tester

1 **No NRPP or NRSB certification.**

The only nationally recognized radon credentials are NRPP and NRSB. Any other "certification" is not EPA-recognized.

2 **Can't provide certification number for verification.**

Legitimate professionals share their number readily. Reluctance to verify is a disqualifying flag.

3 **Uses uncalibrated equipment.**

CRMs require annual calibration. Ask when the device was last calibrated. No answer = no hire.

4 **Doesn't follow closed-building conditions.**

EPA/AARST protocols require 12+ hours of closed-building conditions before and during testing. A tester who doesn't enforce this produces unreliable results.

5 **Places device in inappropriate location.**

Tests should be in the lowest livable level of the home, away from exterior walls, windows, and drafts. A device in the attic or near a window is useless.

6 **No tamper-detection measures.**

For real estate transactions, professional testers use tamper-evident seals or motion-detecting monitors. Without these, results can be challenged.

7 **Recommends unnecessary mitigation for low levels.**

If your result is below 2.0 pCi/L, mitigation is not recommended by the EPA. A tester who pushes mitigation at low levels is likely also a mitigation contractor looking for work.

8 **Offers combined testing + mitigation with a "discount."**

Separating testing and mitigation eliminates conflict of interest. A tester who profits from mitigation has incentive to find high results.

9**No written report.**

A professional radon test includes a written report with the testing period, device type, results, and comparison to EPA action levels. Verbal-only results are unacceptable.

10**Uses only charcoal kits for real estate transactions.**

Professional real estate testing should use continuous radon monitors (CRMs), which provide hourly readings, tamper detection, and barometric data. Charcoal canisters are less reliable and more easily tampered with.



When Professional Testing Matters (Decision Matrix)

Two-column layout

HIRE A CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL WHEN

- Real estate purchase or sale (lenders may require)
- Post-mitigation system verification
- Insurance or legal documentation needed
- First test of a home (baseline establishment)
- Multi-family or commercial property
- Previous test was above 4.0 pCi/L and you need confirmation
- Property in EPA Zone 1 county

DIY TESTING IS ADEQUATE WHEN

- Routine recheck of a home that previously tested below 2.0 pCi/L
- General curiosity / peace of mind
- Screening before deciding whether to invest in professional test
- Long-term average tracking in a home you already own

Cost comparison

Factor	Certified Professional (NRPP/ NRSB)	DIY Kit
Cost	\$150-\$400	\$10-\$50
Device type	Continuous radon monitor (CRM)	Charcoal canister or alpha-track
Duration	48+ hours (hourly readings)	2-7 days (single average)
Tamper detection	Yes (motion sensor, seals)	No
Real estate accepted	Yes	Generally not
Report	Professional written report	Lab results only

Factor	Certified Professional (NRPP/ NRSB)	DIY Kit
Chain of custody	Documented	None
Accuracy	Highest	Moderate (susceptible to interference)

Sample Vetting Questionnaire

Radon Tester Vetting Questionnaire — Send This Before Hiring

Copy and send these questions to any radon testing professional you're considering. Their answers will tell you everything you need to know.

1. Credentials & Licensing

- Are you certified by NRPP or NRSB? Which certification type (measurement, mitigation, or both)?
- What is your certification number? Can I verify it at nrpp.info or nrsb.org?
- Are you licensed in this state (if applicable)?
- When does your current certification expire?

2. Equipment & Protocol

- What type of testing device do you use (CRM, charcoal, electret)?
- When was your device last calibrated, and by whom?
- Do you follow EPA/AARST testing protocols?
- What tamper-detection measures do you use for real estate tests?

3. Testing Process

- Where will you place the testing device in my home?
- How long will the test run?
- Will you enforce closed-building conditions? For how long before and during the test?
- What is your process if results are borderline (near 4.0 pCi/L)?

4. Reporting & Follow-Up

- What does your written report include?
- How soon after testing will I receive results?
- If levels are elevated, do you provide mitigation recommendations?
- Do you also install mitigation systems, or do you focus solely on testing?

5. Insurance & Business

- Do you carry professional liability insurance? What are your limits?
- What is your cancellation/rescheduling policy?
- Do you provide itemized invoices?

6. References

- Can you provide 2-3 recent client references?
- Can you share a sample test report (redacted)?

RadonTrust

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Find certified radon testers near you.

Search testers at radontrust.com