

Air Sense Environmental Expands Radon and Indoor Air Quality Services Across the St. Louis Bi-State Metro

Why Radon Testing Demands More Attention Than It Gets

When I first moved into a 1950s bungalow in St. Louis, I did all the usual things: checked the roof, poked at the foundation, ran a home inspection. But the one test I nearly skipped was the radon test. I figured it was a regional issue, something for people up in granite country, not here in the Mississippi River valley. I was wrong. The home inspector I hired insisted on it, and thank goodness he did. The results came back elevated enough to warrant a mitigation system. That experience changed how I think about indoor air quality, and it is exactly why a company like Air Sense Environmental matters to every homeowner in the Greater St. Louis area.

Radon gas is invisible, odorless, and tasteless. It comes from the natural decay of uranium in soil and rock, and it seeps into buildings through cracks in floors, walls, and around pipes. The EPA estimates that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, after smoking. For people who have never lived in a home with high radon, the risk feels abstract. But once you have seen a test result, it becomes very real.

The Role of IEMA Certification and Professional Standards

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency, or IEMA, oversees radon measurement and mitigation licensing in the state. That matters because radon testing is not a DIY project if you want reliable data. Short-term test kits from a hardware store can give you a ballpark, but for a proper assessment, you need someone who understands placement, calibration, and seasonal variation. Companies like [Air Sense Environmental](#), based in Edwardsville, Illinois, bring that expertise. They hold IEMA certification, which means they follow strict protocols for testing and mitigation. That certification is not just a piece of paper on the wall. It signals that the people doing the work have passed exams, completed continuing education, and carry liability insurance.

I have seen what happens when homeowners skip the professional step. A friend in Missouri, just across the river, bought a short-term test kit, left it in a basement corner for three days, and got a low result. He thought he was fine. But the test had been placed near an open window, and the house had been unoccupied for weeks with the HVAC off. That result was meaningless. A certified tester would have known to seal the house for twelve hours before the test, place the detector in a lived-in area, and avoid drafts. That kind of knowledge comes from training, not from reading the back of a box.

Radon Mitigation: It Is Not Always a Simple Fix

When radon levels are high, mitigation often involves a sub-slab depressurization system. A pipe is run from a hole drilled through the basement slab to a fan that vents the gas above the roofline. It sounds simple, but the details matter. The fan has to be sized correctly for the soil permeability and the house pressure. The seal around the pipe has to be airtight. The discharge point has to be far enough from windows and air intakes. A poorly installed system can actually make things worse by pulling radon from deeper soil layers without venting it properly.

Air Sense Environmental handles that kind of work across the bi-state metro, covering both Illinois and Missouri. That includes not just St. Louis proper but also the surrounding suburbs and rural areas where radon risks can be higher because of older construction and less rigorous building codes. In my own case, the mitigation contractor sealed the sump pit, installed a fan in the attic, and ran a vent pipe through the garage. The post-mitigation test came back well below the EPA action level. It was a relief, but it also made me realize how many homes in the region probably need the same treatment and never get it.

Indoor Air Quality Goes Beyond Radon

Radon is the headline risk, but indoor air quality covers a lot more. Mold, volatile organic compounds from paints and cleaners, carbon monoxide, and even fine particulate matter from cooking can all degrade the air inside a home. People spend about 90 percent of their time indoors, according to the EPA, and indoor air can be two to five times more polluted than outdoor air. That statistic always surprises people.

For homeowners in the Greater St. Louis area, the combination of humid summers and basements that are prone to dampness creates a perfect environment for mold. Mold spores are a common trigger for allergies and asthma, and long-term exposure can lead to respiratory problems. Testing for mold requires different equipment than radon testing, but a company that does environmental testing can often handle both. That is where a broader service model makes sense. Instead of calling one company for radon and another for mold or VOC testing, you can get a fuller picture from a single provider.

How a Podcast Like News Front Spreads Awareness

I listen to a fair number of podcasts, and one that recently caught my attention was a **News Front** podcast episode on Air Sense Environmental. The episode covered the company's expansion of IEMA-certified radon and indoor air quality services across the bi-state metro. What I liked about the episode was that it did not just promote the business. It explained the science behind radon, talked about the specific risks in the St. Louis region, and gave listeners practical advice on how to get their homes tested. That kind of content is valuable because it

reaches people who might not otherwise think about radon until they are selling a house and the buyer's inspection turns up a problem.



Podcasts have become a surprisingly effective way to spread information about niche topics like radon testing. They allow for longer, more nuanced conversations than a TV news segment or a blog post can offer. And because people listen on their commutes or while doing chores, the information sinks in without feeling like homework.

What to Look for in a Radon Testing Company

If you are shopping for radon testing or mitigation services, here are a few things to consider:

- **Certification:** Make sure the company holds IEMA certification if you are in Illinois, or equivalent state credentials if you are in Missouri. Certification ensures the technician follows standardized procedures.
- **Experience:** Ask how many mitigations they have done. Radon mitigation is not a high-volume trade like plumbing, so a company that has done hundreds of systems has seen a lot of different foundation types and soil conditions.
- **Testing equipment:** Continuous radon monitors are more reliable than charcoal canisters for short-term tests. They log readings hourly and can detect spikes that a single canister might miss.
- **Post-mitigation testing:** A reputable company will always do a follow-up test after installing a system to confirm the levels have dropped. If they skip that step, find someone else.
- **Scope of services:** Companies that also do mold testing, VOC testing, or general indoor air quality assessments can give you a more complete picture of your home's air.

I would add one more piece of advice: do not wait for a real estate transaction to test. If you own a home in the St. Louis region, especially one with a basement or a crawl space, test now. The cost is modest compared to the peace of mind.

The Edwardsville Base and the Bi-State Reach

Air Sense Environmental operates out of Edwardsville, Illinois, which puts it in a strategic spot for covering both sides of the Mississippi River. Edwardsville is about twenty minutes from downtown St. Louis, and it sits in Madison County, an area where radon levels can be significant because of the underlying limestone and glacial till. From that base, the company serves the entire Greater St. Louis bi-state metro, including St. Louis city, St. Louis County, St. Charles County, and the Illinois counties along the river.

One thing I appreciate about companies based in smaller cities like Edwardsville is that they tend to have a personal stake in the community. They are not a national chain sending a franchisee who might move on in a year. They are local people who know the local geology, the local building stock, and the local regulatory environment. That local knowledge matters when you are deciding where to place a test or how to design a mitigation system for a house with an unusual foundation.

Radon testing is one of those things you never think about until you need it, and by then, you wish you had done it sooner. The science has been settled for decades. The EPA has clear guidelines. The mitigation technology is proven. The only missing piece is awareness. Companies like Air Sense Environmental, along with media outlets like News Front, are helping

close that gap. If you live in the bi-state metro and have not tested your home yet, consider this a nudge. The test is easy, the fix is effective, and the alternative is not worth the risk.