

## Did you know?

When building a home, there are many aesthetic decisions to make; such as what color to paint the bedroom, where to install outlets, and what lighting will work best in the kitchen. However, decisions impacting the safety of your home and the health of your family must come first.

Some important health and safety considerations needed are: proper ventilation, building with radon resistance in mind, proper moisture control, and safe drinking water.

These decisions will not only improve the value of the home but will provide your family a safe and healthy place to live. Planning ahead helps prevent serious problems for your family's health and safety in the future.

## Learn more:

**Visit Wyandot County Public Health's website:**  
[wyandothealth.com](http://wyandothealth.com)

**Radon:**  
[ohhn.org/radon-home-info/](http://ohhn.org/radon-home-info/)

**Lead:**  
[epa.gov/lead](http://epa.gov/lead)

**Mold:**  
[epa.gov/mold](http://epa.gov/mold)

**Carbon Monoxide:**  
[bit.ly/carbonmonoxideODH](http://bit.ly/carbonmonoxideODH)

**Drinking Water:**  
[bit.ly/privatewatersystemsODH](http://bit.ly/privatewatersystemsODH)

## Questions?

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Updated 12.4.2025

# HEALTHY HOMES PROGRAM

**Wyandot County**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Providing health and safety services that positively impact and improve the well-being of all who live, work, and play in Wyandot County.



## **RADON**

Radon, a naturally occurring colorless and odorless radioactive gas can come into the home through foundation cracks or other openings. Without proper ventilation, this gas gets trapped in the home. Breathing high levels of radon can even lead to lung cancer. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers in the U.S. Building a radon resistant home will help eliminate the need for a radon mitigation system to be installed after your family has moved in.

## **LEAD**

Lead poisoning in a child leads to longterm effects which can be severe. Lead is usually found in homes that were built before 1978. However, if you are using building materials from old homes or buildings, they could be covered in lead based paint. Be aware of what materials are being used and how they are being handled and make sure they are lead free.

## **ARSENIC**

Arsenic is used to preserve wood. This type of wood is then typically used in outdoor structures such as decks, fences, and playground equipment. To avoid arsenic poisoning, avoid sanding or finishing treated wood, apply wood sealants annually, or use non-wood materials such as recycled plastic lumber, metal, or concrete.

## **INDOOR AIR QUALITY**

Indoor Air Quality affects children up to twice as much as adults due to their size. Health problems that come from indoor air pollution can be minimized. Ventilation in every room of the home is needed to improve the air quality. Allow new carpet and furniture to air out for several days, with the windows open, prior to moving in. Also, assure that gas appliances are installed correctly to avoid inefficient burning of gas and polluting the air. Planning ahead can assure that your family can breath safely.

## **MOISTURE**

Moisture control will help prevent allergies caused by mold. Too much moisture in the air will increase allergen substances, such as mold, which can trigger asthma. Properly venting clothes dryers and exhaust fans to the outside, insulating cold water pipes, and assuring there are no plumbing leaks are some steps to minimize excessive moisture in the home. Properly installing gutters and foundation drains will also help aid in moisture control.

## **CARBON MONOXIDE**

Carbon Monoxide can not be seen, smelled, or tasted but can cause serious health problems. Detectors should be placed throughout the home to alert your family if it rises above safe levels. Ventilating gas appliances and wood stoves to the outdoors will help prevent carbon monoxide from being trapped in the home.

## **DRINKING WATER**

Drinking Water should be tested prior to drinking after a new well is drilled. This will assure that the water is free of harmful bacteria. Your water may also have high levels of nitrates and hydrogen sulfide which can be harmful to you and your family. Testing is the only way to determine if the water is safe to drink.

## **HOME SAFETY**

Home Safety issues and unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death of children in America. This includes falls, poisoning, choking, and suffocation, most of which is preventable. Installing handrails on stairways and ledges, safety latches on all cabinets and drawers containing chemicals, and keeping all medicine cabinets locked and out of children's reach will help minimize home safety accidents.

Other home safety tips include: installing a smoke detector on every floor of the home in or near sleeping areas; and assuring each room has an escape route in case of a fire.

## **OUTDOOR SAFETY**

Outdoor Safety needs to also be considered. All pools, spas, and hot tubs should have a fence around them at least five feet high with a self-closing gate. Walk-ways need to be made so they do not pose a trip hazard. Grading the property to eliminate standing water will help prevent mosquito breeding.