



## Selecting Radon Service Providers

### Helpful Hints

- Get more than 1 estimate.
- Ask for references.
- Contact references about their satisfaction with the contractor.
- Ask your county or state consumer protection office for information about the contractors.
- Questions to ask the potential contractor.
- Understand Contract Requirements
- Items to look for in the contract

### Proposals & Estimates should include:

- Proof of liability insurance and being bonded and licensed
- Proof of certification or training.
- Diagnostic testing prior to design and installation of a radon reduction system.
- Installation of a warning device to caution you if the radon reduction system is not working correctly.
- Testing after installation to make sure the radon reduction system works well.
- A guarantee to reduce radon levels to 4 pCi/L or below.

### Five Questions for potential contractors:

1. Does the contractor charge a fee for any diagnostic tests?  
*Although many contractors give free estimates, they may charge for diagnostic tests – these tests help determine what radon reduction system should be used, but are not always necessary.*
2. Can the contractor explain what the work will involve, how long it will take to complete, and exactly how the radon reduction system will work?
3. Will the contractor provide references or photographs, as well as test results of 'before' and 'after' radon levels of past radon reduction work?
4. Did the contractor inspect your home's structure before giving you an estimate?

5. Did the contractor review the quality of your do-it-yourself radon measurement results and determine if EPA testing procedures were followed? This is a requirement of the certification program!

### **The Contract**

- Ask the contractor to prepare a contract before any work begins.
- Carefully read the contract before you sign it. Make sure everything in the contract matches the original proposal. The contract should describe exactly what work will be done prior to and during the installation of the system, what the system consists of, and how the system will operate.
- Carefully consider optional additions to your contract which may add to the initial cost of the system, but may be worth the extra expense. Typical options might include: guarantee that the contractor will adjust or modify the system to reach the promised radon level, or an extended warranty and/or a service plan.

### **Items to look for in the contract:**

- The total cost of the job, including all taxes and permit fees.
- How much, if any, is required for a deposit; and when payment is due in full.
- The time needed to complete the work.
- An agreement by the contractor to obtain necessary licenses and follow required building codes.
- A statement that the contractor carries liability insurance and is bonded and insured to protect you in case of injury to persons or damage to property while the work is being done.
- A guarantee that the contractor will be responsible for damage and clean up after the job.
- Details of warranties, guarantees, or other optional features, including the acceptable resulting radon level.
- A declaration stating whether any warranties or guarantees are transferable if you sell your home.
- A description of what the contractor expects the homeowner to do (e.g., make the work area accessible) before work begins.

*If you have any questions, please contact the NC Radon Program (919) 571-4141 or [ncradon@lists.ncmail.net](mailto:ncradon@lists.ncmail.net)*