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Dear Friends:

Since we last communicated, lots of exciting things have been happening in the radon arena and on healthy home air topics, so fasten your seat belt! (Okay, maybe it's not going to be all that exciting, so just humor me.)

Our country isn't the only one that recognizes the hazards of high concentrations of radon. If you're an attentive student of the radon information we bring you, you're aware that tightly insulated homes in an area where radon is present is a bad combination. A report this year from The Finnish Radiation & Nuclear Safety Authority noted the urgent need for more radon testing to be done in Finland. Why? Only 10,000 of an estimated 70,000 homes with unacceptable radon levels have been identified to date. Finnish homes, often built on bedrock, are well-insulated and as a result, the country's buildings have the highest concentrations of radon in the world. Radon in existing homes should not exceed 400 becquerels (an international unit of measurement for radiation) per cubic meter under Finnish law. (In comparison to United States EPA standards, 400 Bq/m³ equals 10.8 pCi/L.)

Our Healthy Home Air Report Card: We asked Michael Vogel, professor at Montana State University and project director for www.healthyindoorair.org and www.homes-across-america.org to tell us how well the United States is addressing healthy home air issues in comparison to a decade ago. His comments: "I see several major challenges in the healthy home air arena today: One, we need to continue to build an understanding of the design, construction and operational dynamics of a home as they relate to the durability of the home and the health of the occupants. Two, mold and moisture have become dominant indoor air quality (IAQ) issues throughout the U.S. from the perspectives of insurance, landlord-tenant issues, standard-setting regarding mold testing, assessment and cleanup, and real estate purchase and sale. Third, the incidence of asthma associated with home IAQ environments is growing as a concern, and fourth, there's a need to pay special attention to healthy home air issues to protect the older American population - especially those that are caregivers of children."

Have your summer allergies been kicking in? Then maybe you need to stay out of the house more often! The American Lung Association notes that summer months are some of the most difficult for those of us plagued with breathing problems and sensitivities to allergens. Sure, there's pollen nearly everywhere you go outdoors, but the air in your home might be straining you just as much. Those of us who live in the U.S. spend about 90 percent of our time indoors... living with such indoor air pollutants as pollen, pet dander, dust mites, cockroaches, and tobacco and cooking smoke particles.

Any home – even a seemingly spotless one – can foster the growth of biological pollutants. All that’s needed is a combination of nutrients and moisture, conditions found in many parts of the home (damp basements, wet appliances like air conditioners or humidifiers, bathrooms, and some carpets and furniture).

We want to keep our clients and colleagues healthy, so if you’ve done everything you can to clear your environment and still have allergies, click over to the HomeBuyer’s Preferred web site at www.homebuyerspreferred.com and go to the “Stop Allergy” tab. You’ll be able to find links to the allergist locator functions of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) or the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (ACAAI), and even pick up an allergy testing kit if you need one!

What was that? You’re thirsting for more knowledge on radon and don’t know where to start? Then click back over to www.homebuyerspreferred.com for the latest information on radon and the HomeBuyer’s Preferred “industry standard” [radon protection plan!](#)

Until our next communication, here’s lookin’ “a-choo.” (Gesundheit!)



[Phil Kosanovich, SCRP](#)
[President](#)
[HomeBuyer's Preferred, Inc.](#)