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Airthings radon detector accuracy

Depending on where you live, you may not be familiar with radons. It is a radioactive gas that can build at home, and is one of the main causes of lung cancer next to smoking. It is common in rich areas of coal, and is usually tested for with cheap coal detection kits. Airthings has its own high technology taking radon detection with Waves, Bluetooth air quality detector you can mount anywhere you want to always check out the radon. It's a pretty expensive smart home device at \$199 given that it has a certain purpose, but depending on where you live and how big your home is, it can save you money in the long run while keeping you safe. Radon Detection Radon is not a sudden danger such as smoke or carbon monoxide. It accumulates over time and increases the risk of your lung cancer. Instant place inspection for radon levels is inaccurate due to the nature of radon accumulation, so you need to test the air quality in the room within a period of time to get the right reading. This is why conventional charcoal-based detection kits should be left in the same place for a few days before dodging them and sending them for analysis. Because of this, the waves will not trigger the alarm and tell you to clean your house because of the radon; it aims for long-term air quality measurement. According to Airthings, the Waves displayed local radon levels right within 20 percent after a week, and right within 10 percent after a month. They are a reasonable measurement rate, and although weekly readings are quite slower than charcoal kits, the Waves provide the benefit of constantly monitoring air quality without having to send anything to the laboratory. If you detect an unsafe level of radon in your home (higher than 4.0 pCi/L according to EPA), you need to find a radon mitigation service. There are various systems to reduce radon levels at home and prevent further radon accumulation, but they do not do home improvement work themselves. They can include expanding and transforming your home's ventilation system, to the point of installing a fan-driven radon reduction system. The wave design looks like a regular smoke detector, a 4.6-inch wide, 1.4-inch tall white puck distinguished only by silver-coloured rings around the edges. A pinholes location on the top panel showed off its speakers, while two larger holes near the edge marked the sensor. A colored LED ring sits hidden in the middle of the panel, showing off the air quality with green, yellow, or red glowing when you slip your hands over the device. Wave rear panels are covered by magnetic coverings that you can attach to a wall or ceiling with screws A slot for two AA batteries sits behind it. According to Airthings, waves can last up to 1.5 years on a pair of AA batteries. You can track your air quality using the free Airthings Wave app for Android and iOS. The app connects to the Waves over Bluetooth, providing continuous reading of radon, radon levels, and humidity. Results are color-coded, so you can tell a glance if the radon levels are dangerously high. The chart display displays the radon levels measured over different time periods, which is actually the best way to monitor the radon because of how it is measured. Waves are Bluetooth alone, and are not connected to your internet or home network in any way; you can only track it using your mobile device when you're in the Bluetooth range. My test tests waves at my apartment in Brooklyn and at my parents' home in central Pennsylvania. The good news is that my apartment is completely radon-free. Waves detected no levels at all after sitting on my shelves for a month. This is not uncommon, because radons are more commonly found in the ground tier of the building and I live on the fourth floor, and because Brooklyn is not part of the radon belt. Bloomsburg, however, was in a coal country, and the results I found after leaving the Waves in my parents' basement that finished for a week interrupting. The waves are measuring 28 pCi/L, nearly ten times what the EPA considers is dangerous radon levels. I tested the same area with a First Signal-based radon detection kit and got the same results. That level was high even in my hometown, which according to the PA Department of Environmental Protection had an average reading of 12 pCi/L in the basement. I instructed my parents to find radon mitigation services, and they were exploring options and getting more tests done in other parts of the house. They only lived there for over a year, and their previous homes didn't have significant levels of radons, so thankfully they weren't exposed for long periods. Wave vs. Radon Test Kits There is a possibility of Wave Airthings saving my parents' lives, in the long run. I am personally very happy that the test it warns me to the problem so we can get it fixed. However, the nature of the radon and the presented dangers means that an ever-updated monitoring system is no more useful than buying charcoal testing kits periodically in hardware stores and sending them to a laboratory. This means, for daily use, Waves is basically just a thermometer and moisture monitor that you can check on your phone. That said, Waves has unique benefits that can save you money in the long run, depending on the size of your home: You can move it. The radon detection kit costs around \$12 to \$17, regardless of any additional lab feed (as a tip, look for kits that don't have laboratory fees, even if they're more expensive; you'll save a lot of money when you get results back). If Testing only one or two major living rooms each year, you can go nearly a decade before waves pay for itself, and that is a huge demand given that it only has a 12-month warranty. If you want to test the living room, kitchen, garage, attic, basement, and every bedroom in the house, however, you can do everything with a single wave. Just move between rooms every week and track the numbers for the week to get quite accurate readings. It will be slower than using multiple test kits at the same time, but it will save money faster. And again, the risk of radoning comes with cumulative exposure, so wait is not the same as going without a smoke detector or CO2. The conclusion of the Airthings Wave is a very specific smart home device that works well and doesn't try to do more of it. It tracks the radon level accurately and allows you to monitor the temperature and humidity of the room where you put it. That's not a lot of functionality for \$200, but if you have a house in the radon belt and want to keep it safe without regularly buying and sending test kits, it's very useful. On the other hand, if you haven't heard of radons until now and don't live in a large coal region, it may not apply to you at all. Waves are almost useless in my apartment, but in my parents' home, it may have been a lifetime. That said, whether Waves is worth the price depends on how often you want to test the radon and in how many parts of your home are. Because charcoal testing kits remain a viable and economical option for most homes, Waves doesn't get our Editor's Choice. However, it gets four stars to do what it claims to do, and does it well. See it \$184.99 on Amazon MSRP \$199.00 Pros Always measure air quality. Accurate readings after a week. Can be moved between locations. Measures temperature and humidity. See More Expensive Cons compared to charcoal detection kits. Airthings waves are intelligent radon detectors that can help monitor your home's air quality, although there may be more economical options depending on its size and location. Best Smart Home Picks Further Reading © 1996-2014, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliate is the type of picture unboxing album for Radon Wave Airthings Detector that I finally got, today! Setup was pretty simple except for the fact that I downloaded the Airthings Pro app instead of the Airthings Wave app and foolishly spent half an hour trying to get the waves to pair before I realized my mistake. The rear bracket is raised and removable, intended to be screwed to the wall or ceiling. Mounting plates do not sit flush with walls, so I can't use the usual 3M Command Strip; instead, I used a slightly thicker velcro strip and that worked well. I mounted near the branch, which is probably a bad idea given that I'll have toddler walking around the house in some time. It says it can be installed anywhere, even on the ceiling, or Flat. I think radons are heavier than air so I find those recommendations to be odd. It's called waves because you can wave your hands in front of it and it will light up with color to give you a rough indication of air quality. It takes about two hours to get the first reading from the device. The only thing that really makes this is the fact that it has applications that collect data automatically and communicate through bluetooth. There are no other features or automation capabilities available, as far as I know. I doubt that this is going to be very popular in this subreddit, but some can appreciate it! The type of small tool that's spent on something that most people don't care about. I got a pre-order discount (CES) when I first booked in January; the amount is about \$194 including a \$25 shipping fee (a ship from Norway, IIRC). Cheers! Edit: More information here: about Radon: US person: Here's an interactive map to find your radon level zone and here's a PDF map. Edit 2: After thinking more, I decided that they really needed to add the ability to add different locations to the device. For example, if I have this on my crawlspace for 6 months, then I transfer it to my garage for 6 months, I don't want all of those readings on average together. Or another example, if I lend this to someone with a basement, I don't want that reading to be reflected for my house. Page 2Posted by/[deleted]3 years ago 18 comments

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