



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Ted Strickland/Governor

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**To:** Ohio Licensed Radon Testers, Radon Mitigation Specialists, and Radon Contractors

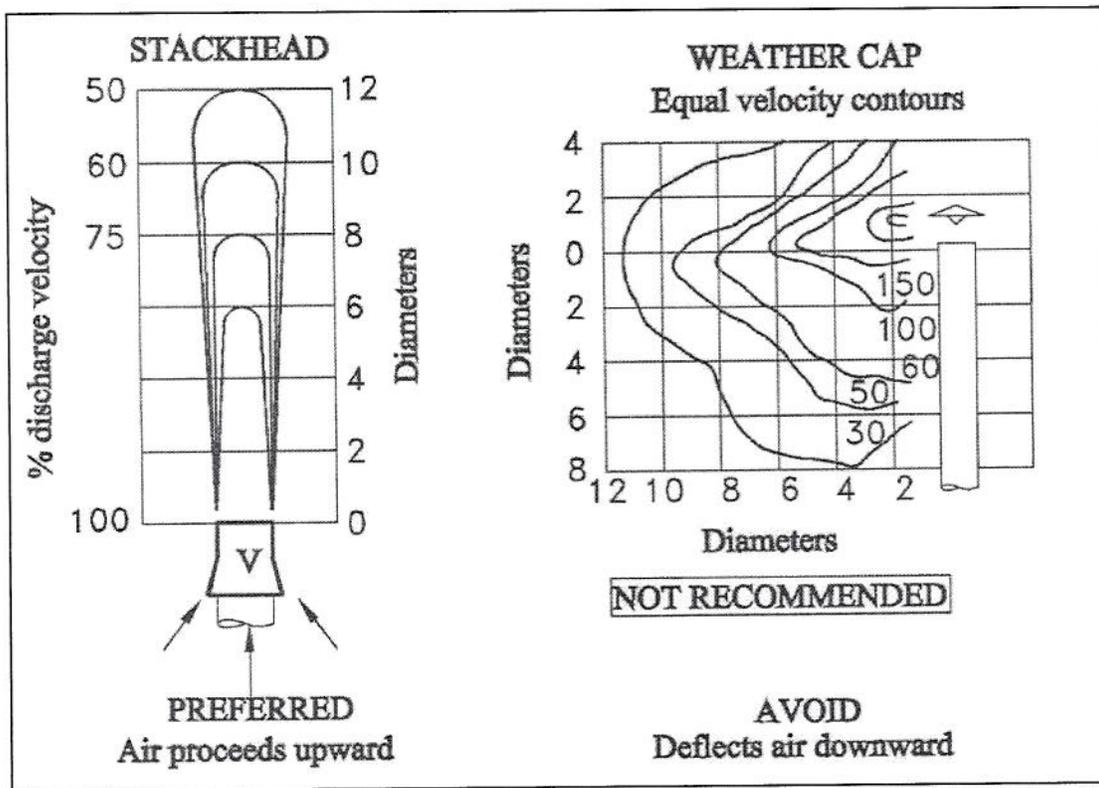
**From:** The Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Protection, Radon Licensing Program 

**Subject:** Rain Caps and Radon Vent Pipes

**Date:** August 20, 2009

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has determined that the use of rain caps on the exhaust end of radon vent pipes is inappropriate and shall not be used. ODH has found numerous problems with the use of rain caps for radon vent pipes. In many cases, adhering to the exhaust point discharge requirements of section 14.2.8 of the Radon Mitigation Standards is difficult when using rain caps. The idea is to vent radon as far away from the living areas as possible. Rain caps impede airflow and redirect radon system exhaust gases laterally and downward toward the structure. This lateral and downward redirection can lead to radon re-entrainment into structures as well as other health, safety and environmental hazards, including, but not limited to, ice accumulation and mold growth on the structure.

The following diagram shows typical air discharge velocities and directions when using rain caps.



Source (adapted from): American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH©). (2004). Industrial Ventilation A Manual of Recommended Practice (25<sup>th</sup> ed.) Cincinnati, OH: ACGIH©. Page 5-70, Figure 5-33.

**Due to this lateral and downward exhaust redirection, rain caps are no longer allowed on radon mitigation systems in the State of Ohio. For questions concerning this memorandum please contact the Radon Licensing Program at (614) 644-2727.**