

# Water Facts of Life

## *Ride the Water Cycle with These Fun Facts!*

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/waterfactsoflife.html>

- ❖ Water is composed of two elements, Hydrogen and Oxygen. 2 Hydrogen + 1 Oxygen = H<sub>2</sub>O
- ❖ Nearly 97% of the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable. Another 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers. That leaves just 1% for all of humanity's needs – agricultural, residential, manufacturing, community, and personal needs.
- ❖ Water regulates the Earth's temperature. It also regulates the temperature of the human body, carries nutrients and oxygen to cells, cushions joints, protects organs and tissues, and removes wastes.
- ❖ A person might live a month without food, but only a week without water.
- ❖ Water is part of a deeply interconnected system. What we pour into the ground ends up in our water, and what we spew into the sky ends up in our water
- ❖ The average total home water use for each person in the U.S. is about 50 gallons a day.

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) research shows that one of the biggest causes of pollution is contamination from septic systems that are not working properly, thereby allowing untreated wastewater to be released into the environment.**

## Jefferson County Health Department, Home Health & Hospice

1212 Walnut Street, Oskaloosa, KS 66066

Phone (785) 403-0025

Public Health Fax (785) 863-2652

Email: [jchd@jfcountyks.com](mailto:jchd@jfcountyks.com)

Website: [www.jfcountyks.com](http://www.jfcountyks.com)

### Environmental Protection Agency

[www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense)

### Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS)

[www.delawareriverwatershed.org](http://www.delawareriverwatershed.org)

### Lower Kansas River WRAPS

[www.kaws.org/lower-kansas-river-wraps](http://www.kaws.org/lower-kansas-river-wraps)

### National Environmental Services Center (Pipeline)

[www.nesc.wvu.edu](http://www.nesc.wvu.edu)

#### DISCRIMINATION

The Jefferson County Health Department, Home Health & Hospice does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or communicable disease. If you feel that you have been discriminated against, you have the right to file a complaint with The Jefferson Co. Health Department, Home Health & Hospice at (785) 863-2447. (TDD) 800-766-3777.

Jefferson County Health Department Home Health and Hospice cumple con las leyes federales de derechos civiles aplicables y no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, edad, discapacidad o sexo.

Jefferson County Health Department Home Health and Hospice tuân thủ luật dân quyền hiện hành của Liên bang và không phân biệt đối xử dựa trên chủng tộc, màu da, nguồn gốc quốc gia, độ tuổi, khuyết tật, hoặc giới tính.

# Do I Need a Wastewater Consultation?

Yes, it is all about protecting a  
diminishing resource – DRINKING WATER!



*Water is a valued resource. All property owners want and need to have water resources available for their daily activities for work, life, and play. Water is necessary for life of humans, animals, and plants. Humans have a responsibility to protect this necessary resource or we will lose it, along with our standard of living.*

## DID YOU KNOW . . . . .

### The most common cause of water resource pollution is domestic wastewater system failures.

- ❖ As home owners with private wastewater systems or users of public wastewater systems, we need to be sure we use the system as intended and provide system maintenance and repair when necessary.

### Over 90% of all water run in a home goes down a drain and into the wastewater system for treatment.

- ❖ Whether it is peeling our potatoes, bathing our children, laundering clothes, washing hands, cooking, or brushing our teeth, most of the water used ends up in a wastewater system.

### The state of Kansas has lost over 30% of its underground water resources in the last 10 years alone.

- ❖ That demonstrates the tremendous increase in our society's use of water today. Most every home has a dishwasher, compared to very few homes having a dishwasher in the 1980's. And, most every person desires the ability to shower or bathe daily. Add to that the use of garbage disposals, having more bathrooms in our homes, and even personal swimming pools and hot tubs, and we have increased the demand for water.

### Over 50% of the private wastewater systems inspected within Jefferson County over the last three years were found to be failed systems! Why?

- ❖ The age of the system. The anticipated life span of a septic system that receives the recommended maintenance and care, is only 20-25 years.
- ❖ Septic tanks not being pumped every 3-5 years have solid waste building up in the tank. When the solids fill the tank, lateral fields soon begin to fill with solids forced out of the tank. Once the lateral pipes are filled with solid waste, the wastewater can no longer be treated, and wastewater is forced to the top of the ground surface.
- ❖ Improper items have been placed into the system.
- ❖ The lateral field is not kept mowed, blocking the necessary evaporation of water coming into the ground after treatment, thus all wastewater is forced back into the system and it is unable to treat new waste water added.
- ❖ Vehicles or livestock have been allowed to cross lateral fields leading to crushed laterals.
- ❖ Buildings or cement have been added over part or all of a septic system or the lines of a public system or private lagoon.



### Before you build, are you covering part or all of their system with other construction materials?

- ❖ Not only does this impact system function and lead to system failure, but the construction may reduce the size of the appropriate location for another wastewater system beyond the property's boundaries. Building over a working wastewater treatment system, may require the new construction to be removed and the failed system replaced. This causes expenses surpassing the anticipated cost of the desired construction.
- ❖ A wastewater system is not always a "visible" utility. We forget about its presence, and when purchasing a property, we may not think to be sure the system is functioning. We may not know where the entire system is located on the property.
- ❖ A consultation will evaluate that your current wastewater system is being maintained appropriately and functioning in an acceptable manner. The consultation will also insure that all setbacks are being met with the construction/addition of a new building.