

Home\*A\*Syst and Farm\*A\*Syst are national programs supported by the USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CREES), USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The national office provides guidelines and educational support to states.

For more information about Home\*A\*Syst or Farm\*A\*Syst, contact:

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Home\*A\*Syst  
Kansas  
Home\*A\*Syst

Self Evaluation of  
Farm and Home  
Water Quality  
Protection

- Have you wondered if the air in your home and the water you drink are healthy?
- Might you live with the presence of lead or hazardous materials?
- Could your home be more energy efficient, safer, and cost less to maintain?
- Might you sell your home in the near future - action now can protect the value of your home.

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**I**nside is a simple checklist for you to use. It will help you evaluate the environmental risks in and around your home. This is a self evaluation, so be honest with yourself when considering the choices after each question.

**E**ach “Yes” answer indicates where you should look more closely at the conditions and practices in and around your home. Kansas Home\*A\*Syst and Farm\*A\*Syst, available through your county Extension Office, offer more information and resources. The rest is up to you.

**T**he results of your home’s environmental risk assessment are for your information. For more detailed information and a more complete checklist, refer to the Kansas Home\*A\*Syst book available from Kansas State University Research and Extension offices in every Kansas county. In addition to the book, there are bulletins and fact sheets to answer your questions. Specialists are available to help you address the unique issues in your home. Many county health departments offer onsite assistance with your evaluation.

Start by contacting your county extension agent or county health department.

Phone numbers for future use if you need help with hazardous material spills (fuel, fertilizer, pesticides) are:

**KDHE - (785) 296-1679**  
**(785) 296-0614 evenings & weekends**  
**Your County Emergency Response - \_\_\_\_\_**

**I**ndicate your answer with an X under the “Yes” or “No” column next to the question.

Yes No **SITE ASSESSMENT**

- Is your soil sandy or gravelly so that rainwater disappears quickly?
- Is a potential source of pollution (animal waste, chemical storage, septic system, etc.) located within 100 feet of a well or watercourse?
- Is the underground water table less than 20 feet deep?

Yes No **STORMWATER**

- Do the roof gutter downspouts empty onto pavement or toward your house &/or septic system?
- Are chemicals stored so that stormwater might get them wet?
- Is soil washing away or is it exposed to erosion?

Yes No **DRINKING WATER WELL**

- Was your last water test more than 2 years ago?
- Is your well sticking up less than 12 inches above ground or is it in a pit?
- Is the well cap loose or are there holes in the casing?
- Are there any abandoned or open well holes?
- Is your well dug or driven (not drilled)?

Yes No **PRIVATE SEWAGE SYSTEMS**

- Has it been more than 3 years since your septic tank was pumped?
- Do you notice that sometimes the yard over the septic system is soggy and smelly?
- Do you have standard toilets and faucets (not low water use types)?

Yes No **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

- Do you use products without knowing whether or not they are hazardous?
- Do you ever pour things like antifreeze, motor oil, paints, etc. down a drain or on the ground?
- Do you burn anything other than wood, paper, or vegetation?

Yes No **LEAD AND YOUR HOME**

- Was your home built before 1978?
- Are there children younger than 6 years old in your home?
- Is there any peeling or chipping paint inside or outside your home?
- Are there lead pipes in your home?
- Was the plumbing installed before 1989?

Yes No **YARD AND GARDEN CARE**

- If you fertilize, has it been more than 3 years since the last soil test?
- Have you applied lawn and garden chemicals without checking the weather forecast for rain?
- Do you use fertilizers and pesticides without reading and following the label instructions exactly?

Yes No **INDOOR AIR QUALITY**

- Do cooking odors linger in the air?
- In winter, does water bead up on the inside of windows?
- When you stay indoors, do you notice such symptoms as stinging eyes, coughing, or headaches?

Yes No **LIQUID FUELS**

- Do you store gasoline in reused glass, plastic, or metal containers?
- Do you store gasoline in the same area as the water heater or furnace?
- Are there any underground fuel tanks on your property?
- Are any aboveground fuel tanks without a catch basin or spill pad?

Yes No **EFFICIENT ENERGY USE**

- Has it been more than 2 years since your gas furnace was inspected?
- Do your energy bills seem higher than those of your neighbors who live in similar size homes?
- Are there cold drafts around windows and doors in winter?
- Are there less than 6 inches of attic insulation?

Yes No **HOUSEHOLD WASTE**

- Do you buy things you don't really need?
- When you take something out of a package, do you throw away more than you keep?
- Do you throw away compostable things such as vegetable scraps and yard waste?

**If you answered “Yes” to any of the questions, there may be pollution risks or special health concerns you want to investigate further.**