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**ENVIRONMENTAL**

*Health Handbook*



Kansas State University

RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

Second Edition, 2002

# **Environmental Health Handbook**

**Second Edition**

**2002**

**Drafted by Kansas Association of Sanitarians  
Handbook Revision Committee, See Committee Members, Page ii**

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# **Environmental Health Handbook, Second Edition**

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## Preface

The Environmental Health Handbook (EHH) has been a valuable resource for professionals, service providers, and technicians who work with private wastewater and water systems. Users have relied on it for wastewater and water system guidance since the first edition was published in August 1992. Many county sanitary codes revised since it was published refer to the handbook as a reference and as a source of information to supplement their code.

Within a few years after the first edition of the handbook was published, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) updated and made substantial changes to Bulletin 4-2. With the EHH, First Edition as the starting point, a new KDHE, Bulletin 4-2, *Minimum Standards for Design and Construction of Onsite Wastewater Systems* was developed and adopted in mid 1997.

Onsite wastewater system research, technology, and product availability is a quickly changing field and much has changed since the First Edition was published. This second edition addresses additional topics, incorporates minor improvements, and has been expanded, especially regarding alternative systems. It corrects discrepancies created by the revised Bulletin 4-2 adopted by KDHE. Both the first and second editions are primarily the result of the Kansas Association of Sanitarians (KAS) committees that invested countless hours to search, collect, assemble, edit, and organize the resources. Their unselfish work is greatly appreciated.

The private water well section of the handbook, added in 1998, is regarded as satisfying the KDHE requirement for Bulletin 4-1, *A Manual of Recommended Standards for Locating, Constructing, and Equipping Private Water Wells*.

Significant changes continue in the onsite industry with new research, technology development, strengthened state and local regulations, and many new products. For the EHH to meet its primary purpose as a resource manual there is an ongoing need for review and improvement to keep it current with the latest research information and products. Another purpose, as a training manual, requires that the handbook be reviewed and updated on a continuing basis as new information becomes available and shortcomings are identified. KDHE is committed to providing ongoing coordination for needed corrections, improvements, and updates and to incorporate improvements at least annually. Users are encouraged to provide feedback about errors, needed additions, and improvements by either sending a message to [ehh@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:ehh@kdhe.state.ks.us) or contacting one of KDHE's Watershed Field Coordinators (Beth Rowlands #785/842-4600; Doug Schneweis #785/625-5663; Richard Basore #316/337-6014). The more specific your recommendations the greater will be their value in providing input for changes.

Because of continuing needs for improvement, KDHE is proceeding with an effort to obtain technical review, technical editing, update, expansion, and reorganization for a third edition of the Environmental Health Handbook expected by 2006. As portions of the new edition are available they will be posted on the KDHE web site as the EHH, Third Edition. The current plan is that the third edition will be reorganized into six chapters with a broader coverage of environmental health and the addition of new topics. The private water supply and onsite wastewater chapters will still comprise by far the major portion of the handbook. KDHE expects to shorten Bulletin 4-2 and refer to the third edition of the handbook as a more extensive resource when it is available.

# Environmental Health Handbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

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