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Assignment 4: Evaluating Your Residence Using WELL Water Concepts

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Part 4 Water Reflection:

My assignment four has been a real revelation. The reason I say this is because of how important it is as a designer to understand water systems and how they work in your home. I have a responsibility to help people make solid decisions about helping their water in the home be as healthy as possible. I have done so much plumbing work in my home over the last three years, and it helps me feel safer and technically up to date. The first thing was to line my sewer line from my house to the street so tree branches and bush would not clog the sewer line. When I first moved in the plumbing lines were still connected to the old cast iron piping. Over six months, the odor was hard to manage so I decided to make an investment and put in all new plumbing lines and cap off the old cast iron. The project was huge. LBA organized a company to cut the concrete in the basement and put in new modern materials and map out brand-new plumbing lines and piping for potable and non-potable water. Since then, the odor in the kitchen has not come back. Finding an excellent plumber is one of the most important tasks for residential and commercial designers to be concerned with, because you can have the most modern plumbing technology but if the plumbing is installed wrong, it can cause massive damage to any remodel or new construction building.

Research about KC Water Company was beneficial to understand how we get our water and how they measure water consumption. I found on their website that the last posted water testing was from April 2025. I feel like the testing has been going on throughout 2025 as well because of the boiling warnings they had given for February 2026 in Tiffany Springs in the north of Kansas City. This information is critical to know when wanting to live a healthier lifestyle. Based on their question section under water quality posted on the KC Water website:

“Do I need to do anything special if I have or am being treated for any health issues?”

“Infants, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with HIV/AIDS, weakened immune systems or similar health conditions, and caregivers of these individuals, should consult a health care provider about precautions to consider regarding tap water. “

This is super concerning considering the number of people with these health issues. As a designer we need to know how we can better help people make smarter decisions about

choosing, for instance, whole home water filtration systems. There are so many on the market and I need to know which ones work and do not when helping others. And not only that but with global warming, people are also going to be forced to use less water. We can help with this right now by choosing toilets, showers, bathtubs, sinks, faucets, HVAC systems, water heaters, dishwashers, washers, and dryers that use less water and are energy efficient based on research. The last job I had LBA complete was installing new hammer arrestors on the hot and cold washing machine water feed lines and underneath the kitchen sink. All these improvements help keep the plumbing system running smoothly and longer without repairs.

I plan to make more adjustments in the future. This year I will add a whole home water filtration system to help the quality of my tap water, so I feel better about drinking it every day. The other investment I will investigate is systems for harvesting rainwater. One step at a time. Based on the research and knowledge I am learning I feel more confident about how I look at my home water system and making better choices in what I need.