

Glossary

Aeration Tank

Following primary treatment, contaminants dissolved in sewage are consumed by microorganisms in large tanks that are supplied with the oxygen (air) necessary for the survival of the microorganisms.

Clarifier

A tank or basin in which sewage is held for a period of time, during which the heavier solids (referred to as sludge) settle to the bottom and any lighter materials present (referred to as scum) float to the water surface. Used in both primary and secondary treatment.

Effluent

The treated, cleaned discharge from sewage treatment plants.

Thickening

A process used to increase the solids content of waste activated sludge by removing a portion of the water.

Sewage

The liquid waste products of domestic, industrial, agricultural and manufacturing activities directed to the sanitary sewer system.