

## V. WATER POLLUTION CONTROL OUTSIDE OF THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP)

### A. Industry

Three important pieces of legislation affect industrial dischargers to publicly owned treatment works systems. They are the Pollution Prevention Act, The Waste Minimization Act and the New Jersey Pretreatment Rules and Regulations.

#### 1. Pollution Prevention and Waste Minimization

These two concepts are the "buzz words" of the 1990's in pollution control. The idea is to stop pollution at the source as compared to cleaning up the water after pollutants have entered the wastewater. Some opportunities are:

- Use less hazardous or biodegradable substances instead of traditional chemicals in industrial production
- Recover and reuse chemicals through filtration of processed water.
- Minimize discharges through good housekeeping practices.
- Find markets for waste products that can be used as raw materials for other industries.

#### 2. Pretreatment of Wastewater

The wastewater treatment process at most wastewater treatment plants depends on the pollutants in the sewerage being biodegradable. A pollutant is **biodegradable** if there is a naturally occurring organism that can use it for food.

- There are many chemicals manufactured by industries that are not biodegradable. Therefore, they are difficult to treat at a biological wastewater treatment plant.
- Industries that discharge non-biological, wastewater to a public plant must therefore pretreat their waste. Pretreatment is usually a chemical process that changes the industrial wastewater to a form that is amenable to biological treatment or removes it from the wastewater for disposal or treatment elsewhere.

### B. Homeowners

#### 1. Septic Systems Maintenance (see next page for diagram).

Some towns do not have a public sanitary sewer collection system and treatment plant. Some of these towns are rural. Here, every house has its own septic system to treat its wastewater.

- A septic system has two components, a septic tank and a disposal field usually on the property.
- The solids in the wastewater settle to the bottom of the septic tank.

