- Systems should be inspected once a year and should be pumped out every 3 to 5 years on the average.

C. Changing Lifestyles

1. During the twentieth century population growth rates soared, giant metropolitan centers developed and industrial complexes advanced the development of technology. New Jersey is in the heart of exactly this kind of population growth development. In 1880, less than 30% of the population of the United States lived in cities. Today over 75% live in urban areas. New Jersey has the highest population density of any other state.

2. Coupled with the enormous growth in population and **urbanization**, there has been a remarkable rise in the **standard of living**. Practically all homes now have at least one bath tub and a washing machine. Other conveniences such as dishwashers and garbage disposals are almost as common. The average household in the United States now uses 250 gallons of water per day.

- **A five minute shower utilizes 40 gallons of water**
- **Flushing the toilet utilizes 6.5 gallons of water**
- **An average bath utilizes 36 gallons of water**
- **Dishwashers utilizes 12.20 gallons of water**
- **An average resident utilizes 107,000 gallons of water in a year.**
- **The average person utilizes 168 gallons per day.**

3. New Jerseyan's live in the heart of a major trade center. It is possible to buy any product, medicine, food or convenience device imaginable in this area. This high degree of "consumerism" means that the waste generated by the production and the disposal of all these products stays in New Jersey as well. More non-biodegradable pollution is the price citizens pay for the variety and convenience we experience from products we love to use.

D. Personal Responsibility

Water pollution control is everyone's responsibility. Frequently people make the mistake of thinking that the "government" will take care of problems like water pollution. These people forget that in the United States, the citizens can play an important role in eliminating water pollution. Here are some ideas about what you can do:

- Pay attention to the amount of water that is used in your house. Do not waste water by letting it run unnecessarily.

- Avoid using the toilet as a waste basket. Flushing the toilet to throw away tissues wastes water and causes the treatment plant to produce more sludge.