

## WATER & WASTEWATER GLOSSARY

<b>Activated</b>	using dissolved oxygen to speed up the process by which microorganisms break down suspended and dissolved organic matter in sewage; as in oxygenation.
<b>Aerated</b>	compressed air forced into wastewater to help keep lighter organic material in suspension, while allowing fine sand and silt to settle to the bottom; as in grit removal.
<b>Bacteria</b>	a group of micro-organisms used in the breakdown of organic matter in sewage.
<b>Biodegradable</b>	able to be readily decomposed by biological means (bacterial action).
<b>Biological</b>	having to do with the living processes of plants and animals.
<b>Biosolids</b>	stabilized sludge that can be beneficially reused.
<b>Biota</b>	the plant and animal life of a region.
<b>Chlorine</b>	a powerful gas used to deodorize wastewater during treatment and as a disinfectant to kill any disease germs in the effluent prior to discharge.
<b>Clarifier</b>	a settling tank in which activated sludge sinks to the bottom for removal and the wastewater flows off the top to final disinfection and discharge.
<b>Decompose</b>	the process in which biochemical action breaks down organic material into its basic parts; to decay.
<b>Dewater</b>	the process by which water is removed from a substance, such as grit or sludge.
<b>Digestion</b>	the process by which organisms that live without dissolved oxygen break down sludge into humus, methane gas, carbon dioxide and water.
<b>Dissolved</b>	the state in which materials are in a solution; as, oxygen in wastewater.
<b>Ecosystem</b>	the network in which a given plant or animal lives and is supported by other organic processes and inorganic conditions.
<b>Effluent</b>	wastewater which flows out of the treatment plant, or a process in it.
<b>Environmental</b>	all of the objects, organisms and conditions which surround and affect the plants and animals of an area.

