Definitions of some common terms used in the sanitary engineering:

REFUSE:
This is the most general term to indicate the wastes which include all the rejects left as worthless, sewage, sullage – all these terms are included in this term.

GARBAGE:
It is a dry refuse which includes, waste papers, sweepings from streets and markets, vegetable peelings etc. The quantity of garbage per head per day amounts to be about .14 to .24 kg for Indian conditions. Garbage contains large amount of organic and putrefying matter and therefore should be removed as quickly as possible.

RUBBISH:
It consists of sundry solid wastes from the residencies, offices and other buildings. Broken furniture, paper, rags etc are included in this term. It is generally dry and combustible.

SULLAGE:
It is the discharge from the bath rooms, kitchens, wash basins etc., it does not include discharge from the lavatories, hospitals, operation theaters, slaughter houses which has a high organic matter.

SEWAGE:
It is a dilute mixture of the wastes of various types from the residential, public and industrial places. It includes sullage water and foul discharge from the water closets, urinals, hospitals, stables, etc.

STORM WATER:
It is the surface runoff obtained during and after the rainfall which enters sewers through inlet. Storm water is not foul as sewage and hence it can be carried in the open drains and can be disposed off in the natural rivers without any difficulty.

SANITARY SEWAGE:
It is the sewage obtained from the residential buildings & industrial effluents establishments‘. Being extremely foul it should be carried through underground conduits.

DOMESTIC SEWAGE:

It is the sewage obtained from the lavatory basins, urinals &water closets of houses, offices & institutions. It is highly foul on account of night soil and urine contained in it. Night soil starts putrefying & gives offensive smell. It may contain large amount of bacteria due to the excremental wastes of patients. This sewage requires great handling &disposal.

INDUSTRIAL SEWAGE:

It consists of spent water from industries and commercial areas. The degree of foulness depends on the nature of the industry concerned and processes involved.

SEWERS:

Ewers are underground pipes which carry the sewage to a point of disposal.

SEWERAGE:

The entire system of collecting, carrying &disposal of sewage through sewers is known as sewerage.

DRY WEATHER FLOW (DWF):

Domestic sewage and industrial sewage collectively, is called as DWF. It does not contain storm water. It indicates the normal flow during dry season.

BACTERIA:

These are the microscopic organisms. The following are the groups of bacteria:

-Aerobic bacteria: they require oxygen &light for their survival.

-Anaerobic bacteria: they do not require free oxygen and light for survival.

- Facultative bacteria: they can exist in the presence or absence of oxygen. They grow more in absence of air.

Invert:

It is the lowest point of the interior of the sewer at any c/s.

SLUDGE:

It is the organic matter deposited in the sedimentation tank during treatment.