Glossary

**Abstraction:** taking water from the source so that it can be used.

**Agricultural waste:** waste that comes from farming.

**Aquaculture:** farming in water, rather than on land.

**Attitudes:** individual preferences or opinions about what a person likes or dislikes.

**Bacteria:** unicellular organisms (made of one cell) that are very small.

**Basic sanitation:** improved sanitation facilities which are not shared with other households.

**Behaviour change communication (BCC):** strategy and methods for communicating messages to communities and individuals about desirable changes to their behaviour e.g. to improve hygiene practices.

**Beliefs:** firmly held states of mind about what is true or false.

**Blackwater:** wastewater that contains or consists of urine and faeces.

**Commercial waste:** waste from businesses such as food and drink establishments, shops, etc.

**Communicable diseases**: infections that are passed from person to person.

**Concentration:** the measure of the quantity of a substance dissolved in a known volume of water.

**Construction and demolition waste:** waste from various types of building and demolition activities in urban areas.

**Critical situations:** circumstances where activities or incidents indicate the possibility that disease-causing micro-organisms are present on hands, fingers and nail surfaces.

**E-waste:** wastes generated from used electronic devices and household appliances.

**Excreta:** a combination of urine and faeces.

**Facilities:** the structures that are used to provide sanitation.

**Gender issue:** matter that affects males and females differently.

**Greywater:** wastewater from human washing and bathing, kitchen sinks, clothes washing, etc. It does not contain excreta.

**Groundwater:** all water that is found underground within the rocks.

**Healthcare waste:** any solid waste produced in hospitals, clinics, health posts and other health facilities.

**Helminths:** worms that are parasites on humans and other animals.

**Household waste:** garbage, rubbish, trash and refuse from residential areas.

[**Hydropower**](https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/mod/glossary/showentry.php?eid=6585&displayformat=dictionary)**:** energy that can be harnessed from a continuous flow of water, such as a river.

**Hygiene:** conditions or practices that help maintain health and prevent disease.

**Infectious agents:** organisms that invade the body and cause disease.

**Improved sources:** water from springs and wells which are constructed and used in such a way that they adequately protect the water from contamination, especially by faecal matter.

**Industrial waste:** waste from various types of industrial processes.

**Institutional hygiene:** practices carried out to keep clean and healthy in various local institutions, such as schools and clinics.

**Institutional waste:** waste from public and government institutions.

**Knowledge:** all the information we have learned and produced during our growth and development.

**Landfill:** an area of land set aside for the final disposal of solid waste.

L**imited facilities:** facilities which are shared with other households.

**Liquid wastes:** any wastes in a liquid form such as wastewater and sewage.

**Micro-organisms:** tiny living organisms that you can see only with a microscope.

**Municipal waste:** waste produced in an urban area.

**Open defecation:** depositing faeces in open spaces such as fields, bushes, bodies of water and beaches.

**Organic matter:** carbon-based substances derived from living organisms.

**Palatable water:** water that is pleasant to drink, meaning it is completely clear and free from tastes, smells and colours.

**Pathogen:** a disease-causing agent.

**Personal hygiene:** involves maintaining the cleanliness of our body and clothes.

**Pollution:** introduction into the environment of substances liable to cause harm.

**Potable water:** water that does not contain harmful or potentially harmful substances and does not present any risk to human health.

**Practices:** routine actions, doing something in the same way every time.

**Protozoa:** single-celled micro-organisms that are much larger than bacteria.

**Public institutions:** any institution that provides social, educational and religious public services to the general population such as schools and health clinics.

**Raw water:** water before it is treated.

**Recycling:** processing of wastes into new raw materials.

**Residential waste:** waste from households and residential areas.

**River basin:** the area of land that is drained by a river and its tributaries.

**Safe drinking water:** water that does not contain harmful or potentially harmful substances and does not present any risk to human health.

**Safely managed facilities:** where human contact with faeces is avoided.

**Sanitation:** preventing people from coming into contact with human excreta and other liquid wastes produced in homes, workplaces and public buildings.

**Sanitation ladder:** a measure of progress towards the provision of adequate sanitation facilities for every household.

**Services:** the schemes for providing sanitation.

**Sewage:** a combination of wastewater that flows in underground sewers or open ditches.

**Social environment:** aspects of our environment derived from human and social structures and institutions e.g. services provided by schools, monasteries, mosques, shops, and from the community’s attitudes and behaviour.

**Solid wastes:** anything in solid form that is discarded as unwanted.

**Spring:** a point where groundwater emerges at the surface of the ground.

**Stormwater:** wastewater that flows on the surface of the land to join streams.

**Surface water:** water in rivers, lakes, pools and ponds.

**Traditions:** behaviour that is learned from previous generations and passed on to the next generation.

**Turbidity:** cloudiness that is due to a large number of very tiny particles.

**Unimproved facilities:** latrines that do not ensure the separation of faeces from humans.

**Urbanisation:** people moving from the rural areas to the towns and cities.

**Viruses:** microscopic infectious particles that can only reproduce when inside the living cells of organisms.

**Waste disposal:** getting rid of wastes that cannot be dealt with in any other way, usually to an area of land set aside for the final disposal of solid waste.

**Waste hierarchy:** ranks the different ways of dealing with waste in order of priority.

**Waste management:** the collection, treatment and disposal of solid wastes.

**Waste reduction:** not generating waste in the first place or minimising the amount of waste produced.

**Waste reuse:** reusing waste such as refilling a drinks bottle.

**Water-based diseases:** infections caused by parasites that spend part of their life cycle in water.

**Waterborne diseases:** infections caused by people ingesting water contaminated by human or animal faeces containing pathogens.

**Water-related diseases:** infections transmitted by insects that breed or feed in or near bodies of water.

**Water-washed diseases:** infections that occur as a result of inadequate quantities of water being available for good personal hygiene.