

DEFINITION OF TERMS USED IN SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL PRACTICE.

THE Committee of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal of the Sanitary Engineering Section of the American Public Health Association at the last annual meeting of the association, submitted a report defining the terms used in sewerage and sewage disposal practice. The report was tentative and was submitted with the hope that it would bring out a full discussion of the subject. It is the purpose of the committee to amend these definitions in accordance with the weight which may be given in the discussions, with the view of establishing terms that may be generally acceptable to all engaged, or interested, in work of this character.

The suggested definitions follow:—

Sewage is the spent water supply containing the wastes from domestic, industrial or commercial use, including such surface and ground water as may enter the sewer.

Domestic sewage is that discharged from residences or institutions, and contains water-closet, laundry and kitchen wastes.

Industrial wastes are the liquid wastes resulting from the processes employed in industrial establishments.

Street wash is the liquid flowing on and from the street surface.

Surface water is that portion of the precipitation which runs off over the surface of the ground.

Storm water is that portion of the precipitation which runs off over the surface of the ground during a storm and for such a short period following a storm as the flow exceeds the normal or ordinary run-off.

Ground water is that which is standing in, or passing through, the ground.

Drain is a conduit intended to carry storm, surface and ground water.

Sewer is a conduit for carrying sewage.

Common sewer is a sewer in which all abutments have equal rights of entrance and use.

House connection is a pipe leading from a building to a common sewer.

Lateral sewer is a sewer which does not receive the sewage from any other common sewer.

Submain or branch sewer is a sewer into which the sewage from two or more lateral sewers is discharged.

Main or trunk sewer is a sewer into which the sewage from two or more submain or branch sewers is discharged.

Separate sewer is a sewer which is intended to receive only sewage and not storm or surface water.

Combined sewer is a sewer intended to receive both sewage and storm and surface water.

Intercepting sewer is a sewer generally laid transversely to the general sewer system to intercept all the sewage collected by the sewers of a separate system or the dry-weather flow of sewage, and such additional storm and surface water as may be determined, from a combined system.

Relief sewer is a sewer intended to carry a portion of the flow from a district already provided with sewers of insufficient capacity, and thus prevent overtaxing the latter.

¹In the opinion of the committee the term "Industrial Wastes" is preferable to "Trade Wastes."

²The committee is of the opinion that preference should be given to the term "Submain Sewer" rather than to "Branch Sewer."

³In the opinion of the committee the use of the term "Separate Sewer" is preferable to "Sanitary Sewer," which latter term should be discontinued.

Sewer system is the collecting system of sewers and appurtenances, together with such small pumping stations as may be required to lift the sewage from low-level districts.

Combined system is a system of combined sewers.

Separate system is a system of separate sewers.

Sewerage works comprise the sewer system, main pumping stations, treatment works, means of disposal of effluent and sludge, and all other works necessary to the complete collection, treatment and disposal of the sewage.

Manhole is a shaft, or chamber, leading from the surface of the ground to the sewer, large enough to enable a man to gain access to the latter.

Lamphole is a small vertical pipe or shaft leading from the surface of the ground to the sewer, for admitting a lantern or reflected light for purposes of inspection.

Wellhole or drop manhole is a vertical shaft in which sewage is allowed to fall from one sewer to another at a lower level.

Inlet is a direct connection between the surface of the ground and the sewer, for the admission of surface or storm water.

Catch basin is a chamber inserted in an inlet to prevent the admission of grit and other coarse material into the sewer.

Flush tank is a tank in which water or sewage is accumulated, to be quickly discharged later, for the purpose of flushing the sewer.

Regulator is a device for controlling the quantity of sewage admitted to an intercepting sewer.

Outlet is the end of a sewer or drain from which its contents are finally discharged.

Storm overflow is a weir or orifice for permitting the discharge from a combined sewer of that portion of the storm flow in excess of that which the sewer is intended to carry.

Sewage disposal is a generic term applied to the act of disposing of sewage matter by any method.

Sewage treatment is the process to which sewage is subjected in order to partially remove its impurities and render it fit for final discharge.

Contamination is the introduction into a water of bacteria or other substances which tend to render it unsuitable for domestic use.

Pollution is the introduction into a water of substances of such character and in such quantity that they tend to render the body of water or river objectionable in appearance, or to cause it to give off objectionable odors.

Influent in sewage practice is a term which applies to sewage that flows into any sewage treatment device.

Effluent in sewage practice is a term which applies to sewage that flows out of any sewage treatment device.

Putrescibility is the capability of sewage, effluent, or wet sludge, to putrefy under the conditions to which it is subjected.

Stability is the capability of sewage or effluent to resist putrefaction under conditions to which it is subjected.

Relative stability is the ratio of available oxygen to the oxygen required to prevent putrefaction, expressed in per cent.

Clarification is the removal of the suspended and colloidal matters.

Suspended solids are the solids, both organic and inorganic, that are not held in solution in a sewage or effluent; these solids being quantitatively determined in the laboratory by retention on filter paper.

⁴The term "Sewage Purification" should be abandoned.