DEFINITIONS & TERMINOLOGY[1]:

Aerobic	Living or taking place in the presence of air or free oxygen
Anaerobic	Living or taking place without air or free oxygen
Black water	Wastewater from the toilet which contains heavy faecal contamination and most of the nitrogen in sewage
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)	BOD is the measure of the amount of oxygen required by bacteria to stabilize material that decomposes under aerobic conditions. BOD is a commonly used determinant of the organic strength of a waste, as it serves as an indicator of the waste's capacity to remove oxygen from water. Oxygen concentrations in water determine the quality of fish and other organisms that can survive and flourish in the water; severe oxygen depletion can create offensive conditions, including bad smells
Constructed Wetlands	Engineered systems designed to optimize the physical, chemical, and biological processes of natural wetlands for reducing BOD and TSS concentrations in wastewater
Desludging	Removing accumulated sludge from septic tanks
Effluent	Out flowing liquid
Excreta	Faeces and Urine
Faecal Sludge	Faecal sludge is the solid or settled contents of septic tanks. Faecal sludge differs from sludge produced in municipal wastewater treatment plants. Faecal sludge characteristics can differ widely from household to household, from city to city, and from country to country. The physical, chemical and biological qualities of faecal sludge are influenced by the duration of storage, temperature, intrusion of groundwater or surface water in septic tanks or pits, performance of septic tanks, and tank emptying technology and pattern
Grey Water	Water from the kitchen, bath, laundry and other domestic activities that does not normally contain urine or excreta.
Grit	Heavy mineral matter such as sand and gravel, usually removed before primary treatment.
Groundwater	Water found below ground level in the soil
Groundwater Table	The level at which the subsoil is saturated with water

[1] The World Bank: Sanitation, Hygiene and Water Resource Guide, http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTWAT/EXTTOPSANHYG/0,,contentMDK:21191474~menuPK:3747921~pagePK:64168445~piPK:64168309~theSitePK:1923181,00.html

Hygiene	Behaviours related to the safe management of human excreta, such as washing hand with soap or the safe disposal of children's faeces. Hygiene thus determines how much impact water and sanitation infrastructure can have upon health, because it reflects not the construction, but the use, of such facilities
Off-site Sanitation	System of sanitation where excreta are removed from the plot occupied by the dwelling and its immediate surroundings
On-site Sanitation	System of sanitation where the means of collection, storage and primary-level treatment (where this exists) are contained within the plot occupied by the dwelling and its immediate surroundings
Pathogens	Disease-causing organisms; The main organisms that pose a threat to health related to poor sanitation are pathogenic bacteria, viruses, parasitic protozoa and helminths that are excreted in large numbers from infected individuals. Many of these organisms have low infectious doses (e.g., helminths, protozoa and viruses) which means that only small quantities of infectious agents are needed to infect a new host (the infective dose varies between organisms and with respect to the susceptibility of the exposed individual)
Pit Latrine	Latrine with a pit for collection and decomposition of excreta and from which liquid infiltrates into the surrounding soil
Pour-flush Latrine	Latrine that depends, for its operation, on small quantities of water, poured from a container by hand to flush away faeces from the point of defecation
Primary Treatment	Initial wastewater treatment process to remove solids which settle by sedimentation, and floating objects by physical screening and skimming
Secondary Treatment	Wastewater treatment step following primary treatment to remove biodegradable dissolved and colloidal organic matter by using biological processes, such as activated sludge, trickling filters, or various kinds of ponds and lagoon systems
Sanitation Promotion	Activities undertaken to stimulate household demand for, and the supply of, the sanitation hardware necessary to maintain a healthy environment: latrines, toilets, sewer connections, etc.
Septage	Faecal sludge removed from septic tanks; the settled solid matter in semi-solid condition usually a mixture of solids and water settled at the bottom of septic tank. It has an offensive odour, appearance and is high in organics and pathogenic microorganisms

	A watertight, on-site treatment system for domestic sewage, consisting of two or more compartments, in which the sanitary flow is detained to permit concurrent sedimentation and sludge digestion.
Septic Tank[2]	Anaerobic digestion of settled solids (sludge) and liquid, results in reasonable reduction in the volume of sludge, reduction in biodegradable organic matter and release of gases like carbon dioxide, methane and hydrogen sulphide. The effluent[3] although clarified to a large extent, will still contain appreciable amount of dissolved and suspended putrescible organic solids and pathogens.
Sewage	Human excreta and waste water, flushed along a sewer pipe
Sewerage	A system of sewer pipes, manholes, pumps etc. for the transport of sewage
Sludge	A mixture of solids and water that is a residual of waste water treatment units – the term 'sewage sludge' is generally used to describe residuals from centralized wastewater treatment, while the term 'septage' is used to describe the residuals from septic tanks
Sullage	Domestic dirty water which does not contain excreta. Sullage is also called grey water
Suspended Solids	Solids that are in suspension in water or other liquids
Waste Water	The spent or used water from homes, communities, farms and businesses that contains enough harmful material to damage the environmental quality. Wastewater includes both domestic sewage and industrial waste from manufacturing sources
Water Table	The level in the ground at which water is found when a hole is dug or drilled

[2] US EPA Definition

[3] The effluents may be discharged into soak pits or small-bore sewers, and the solids have to be pumped out periodically. Emptying septic tank sludge and final disposal of this septage is a challenge to many countries, developed and developing alike