

Surface Cleaners Workshop

Commonly Used Terms and Expressions

When people mean “wastewater,” they may say:
Sewage

When people mean “sewer system,” you may hear:
Sanitary sewer
Collection system
Sewers

Referring to a wastewater treatment plant, people may say:
POTW—“Publicly Owned Treatment Works”
Water quality control plant
Waste treatment authority
Sewage treatment plant
Treatment plant

When people talk about “stormwater,” they may use these terms:
Urban runoff
Polluted runoff
Storm drain pollution
Nonpoint source pollution

A curbside or parking lot grate that is part of the storm drain system may be referred to as:
Storm drain
Catch basin
Drop inlet
Storm drain inlet

The system of pipes, channels, etc. that carries stormwater to a creek, the Bay, or the Delta may be referred to as:
Storm drainage system
Storm drains
Storm sewer

Voluntary or regulatory pollution prevention guidelines for businesses or others may be referred to as:
Best Management Practices
BMPs
Control measures
Pollution prevention practices