POLLUTANTS IN RAW WASTEWATER

The pollutants in waste water generally are divided into the following *four* categories which correspond to the techniques used to remove them.

- **Debris and Grit:** rags, plastic bags, coarse sand, gravel and other objects flushed down toilets or washed through storm drains.
- **Particulate Organic Material:** Faecal matter, food wastes from garbage-disposal units, toilet paper, and other matter that tends to settle in still water.
- **Colloidal and Dissolved Organic Material:** Very fine particles of particulate organic material, bacteria, urine, soaps, detergents, and other cleaning agents.
- **Dissolved Inorganic Materials:** Nitrogen, phosphorus, and other nutrients from excretory wastes and detergents.

In addition to the four categories of pollutants in "standard" raw wastewater, variable amounts of pesticides, heavy metals, and other toxic compounds may be found because people pour unused portion of products containing such materials down sink, tub, toilet drains. Also industries may discharge various toxic wastes into sewers.