

**point source pollution**—a specific location from which pollution is released; an example of a point source location is a factory where wood is being burned.

**poison**—any substance that has an LD<sub>50</sub> of 50 mg or less per kg of body weight.

**physical treatment**—in a sewage treatment plant, the initial filtration that is done to remove debris such as stones, sticks, rags, toys, and other objects that were flushed down the toilet.

**primary pollutants**—pollutants that are released directly into the lower atmosphere.

**primary treatment**—when physically treated sewage water is passed into a settling tank, where suspended solids settle out as sludge; chemically treated polymers may be added to help the suspended solids separate and settle out.

**risk assessment**—calculating risk, or the degree of likelihood that a person will become ill upon exposure to a toxin or pathogen.

**risk management**—using strategies to reduce the amount of risk (the degree of likelihood that a person will become ill upon exposure to a toxin or pathogen).

**secondary pollutants**—pollutants that are formed by the combination of primary pollutants in the atmosphere.

**secondary treatment**—the biological treatment of wastewater in order to continue to remove biodegradable waste.

**Sick Building Syndrome**—when the majority of a building's occupants experience certain symptoms that vary with the amount of time spent in the building.

**sludge**—the solids that remain after the secondary treatment of sewage.

**sludge processor**—a tank filled with aerobic bacteria that's used to treat sewage.

**solid waste**—can consist of hazardous waste, industrial solid waste, or municipal waste. Many types of solid waste provide a threat to human health and the environment.

**stationary sources**—non-moving sources of pollution, such as factories.

**Superfund Program**—a program funded by the federal government and a trust that's funded by taxes on chemicals; identifies pollutants and cleans up hazardous waste sites.

**surface impoundment**—a hazardous liquid disposal technique that involves the creation of shallow, lined pools from which the hazardous liquid evaporates.

**threshold dose**—the dosage level of a toxin at which a negative effect occurs.

**toxicity**—the degree to which a substance is biologically harmful.

**toxin**—any substance that is inhaled, ingested, or absorbed at dosages sufficient to damage a living organism.

**transuranic waste**—the waste that's left over from the construction of nuclear weapons.

**tropospheric ozone**—ozone that exists in the troposphere.