

REFUSE AND SEWAGE

Definition of sewage and refuse

Sewage or liquid waste is a mixture of organic and inorganic substances mainly in liquid form. It contains human waste (faeces and urine), mineral salts, waste water and garbage.

Refuse is the dry or wet waste which could cause land pollution (eg) nylon, paper, plastic, bottles, scrapes etc. Refuse waste materials could be divided into two (2) namely; ***Biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.***

- i. **Biodegradable waste:** these are waste materials that can decompose or decay easily (eg) banana peels, plantain peels, dead leaves and animals etc
- ii. **Non-biodegradable waste:** they are those refuse that cannot be decomposed easily or decay (eg) metals, plastics, broken bottles etc.

Indiscriminate/ improper disposal of refuse

Improper disposal of refuse might result to the following;

1. It provides breeding grounds for insects and animal pest such as rats and mosquitoes which are vectors of many germs.
2. Constant inhaling of the offensive odour may result to ill health.
3. Refuse dumps are ugly sites and odour from them could cause discomfort and irritation.
4. Visiting insects to the refuse dump such as housefly can cause food poisoning by perching on food.

Methods of refuse disposal

There are different ways in which communities and homes can dispose their refuse properly. They are;

- i. Use of dustbin
- ii. Burning
- iii. Burying
- iv. Dumping
- v. Feeding animals

- i. **The use of dustbin:** in urban towns, each household has a dustbin where their refuse is being dumped after which it is taken to the government designated or approved refuse dump site.
- ii. **Burning:** refuse collected is burnt in an incinerator. The ashes from the burnt refuse are added to compost heaps.

- iii.
- iv. **Dumping:** refuse collected from towns and villages are carried in badges far into the sea areas where it is dumped.
- v. **Feeding animals:** animals like pigs, Goats, dogs and chicken can be fed with left-over vegetables and grains waste from homes.

Tools used for refuse disposal

- Broom
- Dust pan\dust bin\waste basket
- Garbage bags
- Rake
- Shovel
- Wheel-barrow
- Disposal trucks

HOME WORK

- I. What is a Cesspools?
- II. Mention three substances that can be called a refuse
- III. What is recycling? Mention any three substances that can be recycled.