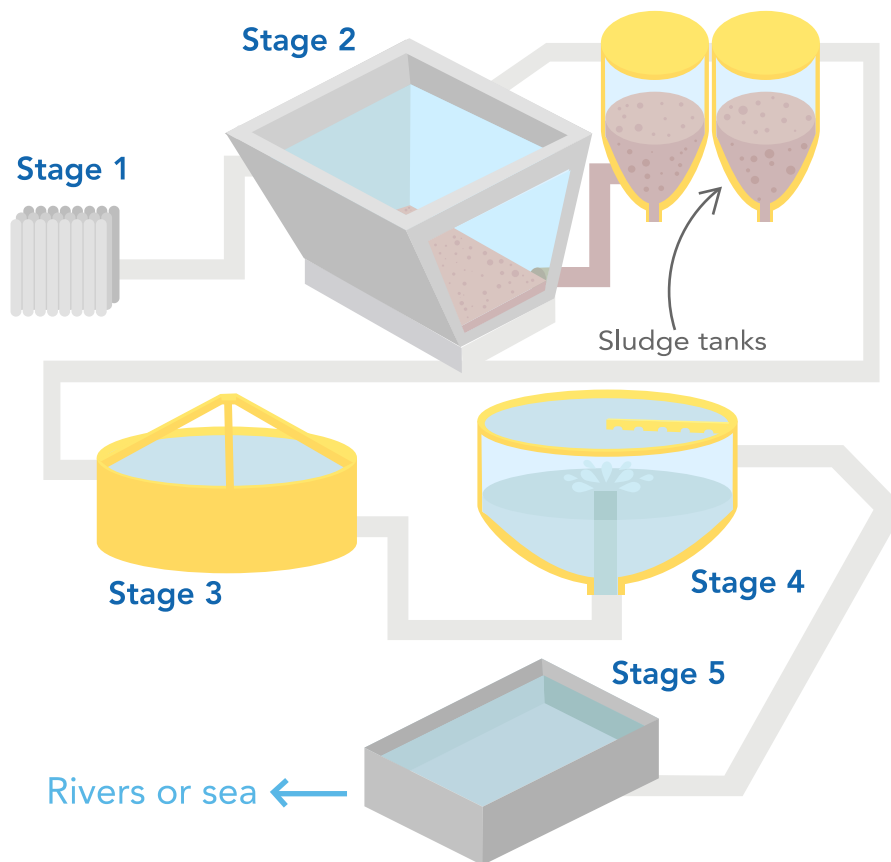




Water treatment

The 5 stages of waste water treatment



Stage 1: Screens trap rubbish like rags, bits of wood and plastic.

Stage 2: Stones and grit are removed so they don't damage machinery.

Stage 3: The waste water rests in these tanks where any solids in the water sink to the bottom. The solids make a slimy mud called sludge. The sludge is pulled out into other tanks to be treated and made harmless. It can be used to make the soil better for growing plants or for burning to make electricity.

Stage 4: Good bugs (bacteria) grow in the tanks. They eat up any chemicals and other waste which could harm plants and animals.

Stage 5: The waste water is allowed to rest again. Large stirrers gently mix the liquid and the left over bits sink to the bottom of the tank.

Now that the treated waste water is much cleaner, it can be poured back in the river or the sea.