



Separated System

Combined System

3.3 Treatment

- Wastewater treatment can involve physical, chemical or biological processes or combinations of these processes depending on the required outflow standards.
- Wastewater treatment typically involves a series of steps with increasing level of treatment:
 - **Preliminary**: The preliminary process removes large/coarse solids which include rocks, tree branches, grit and other debris present in wastewater.
 - **Primary**: The primary process is also a physical process where the separable wastewater solids - solids that float and solids that can settle, are removed.
 - **Secondary**: Secondary treatment is a biological treatment process where microorganisms consume the organic matter present in the wastewater.
 - **Tertiary or Advanced Treatment**: The tertiary/advanced treatment processes improve the quality of treated water beyond the secondary treatment level. This process may include nutrient removal and disinfection.

A generalized layout/process sequencing in a wastewater treatment plant is shown below:

