Bacteria Troubleshooting
Photo Gallery
Operational Issues that Contribute to Bacteria-related Violations

Prepared in cooperation with Kim Laird,
TCEQ Houston Region wastewater investigator

Small Business & Environmental Assistance
1-800-447-2827  www.TexasEnviroHelp.org
Broken diffusers reduce dissolved oxygen levels in the aeration basin causing the microorganisms to become unhealthy or even die.
Sludge rising in the clarifier. Increased suspended solids interfere with the disinfection process and increase bacteria counts in the effluent.
Sludge clumps and grease reduce disinfection.
Sludge settled in the chlorine contact chamber. High amounts of settled sludge can decrease detention time and increase bacteria counts in effluent.
Grease in the chlorine contact chamber.
Grease interferes with the disinfection process and can result in increase bacteria counts in the effluent.