

# Liming and thermal treatment of sewage sludge



*Figure 1. Liming of sewage sludge [Photo source: Pixabay]*

The addition of **quicklime** (Figure 1) to sludge makes it possible to:

- increase dryness to a value of 30% dry matter content.
- increase the pH above 12 to slow down pathogenic activity.
- reduce or even eliminate bacteria thanks to the exothermic reaction (temperature of around 60°C) produced by the contact between sludge and quicklime.
- slow down anaerobic fermentation, which generates unpleasant odours

**Thermal sludge** is sludge that has been treated with heat (heated at a minimum of 190°C for 45 minutes at 20 bar pressure) and dehydrated either by filter press or mobile centrifuges.

In both cases, the sludge is said to be "**sanitised**".

---

L'Encyclopédie de l'environnement est publiée par l'Université Grenoble Alpes.

Les articles de l'Encyclopédie de l'environnement sont mis à disposition selon les termes de la licence Creative Commons Attribution - Pas d'Utilisation Commerciale - Pas de Modification 4.0 International.

---