



Industrial Wastewater Treatment & Recycling

23 – 27 November 2026
Rome (Italy)



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Introduction

Industrial wastewater is a critical environmental and operational challenge that impacts public health, regulatory compliance, and sustainable industrial performance. This course provides an in-depth exploration of industrial effluent treatment principles, focusing on advanced treatment strategies, safe discharge, and recycling practices tailored for large-scale operations. Participants will build a solid understanding of process design, pollutant removal mechanisms, regulatory frameworks, and emerging technologies that enhance water reuse and industrial sustainability. Learners will develop the analytical skills necessary to optimize treatment systems, reduce environmental risk, and support circular water management. The curriculum bridges engineering fundamentals with strategic decision-making to prepare chief engineers and senior technical leaders for the complex demands of industrial water stewardship. It emphasizes performance optimization, resource recovery, and alignment with environmental compliance and sustainability goals.

Targeted Groups

This Industrial Wastewater Treatment & Recycling training targets professionals seeking knowledge and skills:

- Chief engineers overseeing industrial wastewater systems.
- Environmental compliance managers in manufacturing and processing plants.
- Senior process engineers responsible for water treatment design.
- Operations leaders managing wastewater treatment facilities.
- Technical supervisors involved in effluent quality monitoring.
- Environmental consultants advising on industrial water reuse strategies.

Course Objectives

Participants will achieve the following objectives by completing the Industrial Wastewater Treatment & Recycling course:

- Understand the fundamentals of industrial wastewater characteristics and pollution sources.
- Analyze primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment processes and mechanisms.
- Evaluate advanced technologies, including membrane filtration, biosorption, and chemical dosing systems.
- Apply best practices for industrial water recycling and reuse within production operations.
- Interpret applicable discharge standards, environmental regulations, and compliance requirements.
- Design treatment process flow diagrams and select appropriate unit operations.
- Assess operational data to improve treatment performance and reduce operational costs.
- Integrate sustainability principles into wastewater management decision frameworks.
- Communicate technical findings and recommendations to multidisciplinary stakeholders.
- Develop a roadmap for implementing industrial wastewater recycling initiatives.

Targeted Competencies

Participants will gain the following competencies during the Industrial Wastewater Treatment & Recycling program:

- Ability to characterize industrial wastewater streams and identify key contaminants.
- Capacity to differentiate between treatment technologies and select optimal solutions.
- Skills in process analysis, troubleshooting, and performance optimization.
- Competence in designing integrated treatment systems for complex effluent profiles.
- Proficiency in implementing water reuse strategies that reduce freshwater demand.
- Aptitude in evaluating regulatory compliance and environmental monitoring data.
- Capability to forecast treatment outcomes using performance indicators.
- Talent to lead cross-functional teams in environmental and engineering projects.
- Confidence in proposing sustainable solutions that balance technical and economic factors.
- Expertise in presenting technical reports, risk assessments, and operational plans.

Studying Scenarios

In this Industrial Wastewater Treatment & Recycling training, participants develop skills through the following scenarios:

- Assessing influent wastewater from a chemical production facility and defining treatment priorities.
- Designing a process flow schematic for a pulp and paper mill's wastewater stream.
- Simulating an upgrade to a membrane bioreactor for advanced solids removal.
- Evaluating recycled water quality criteria for cooling tower reuse.
- Interpreting treatment performance data to adjust aeration and nutrient removal.

Course Content

Unit 1: Fundamentals of Industrial Wastewater and Environmental Context

- Overview of industrial wastewater sources and common pollutants.
- Key water quality parameters and influent characterization methods.
- Industrial effluent impact on ecosystems, public health, and infrastructure.
- Regulatory frameworks, discharge limits, and compliance reporting.
- Principles of water reuse, recovery, and circular industrial water systems.
- Economic drivers for efficient wastewater management and recycling adoption.
- Risk assessment concepts related to industrial water contamination.
- Introduction to sustainable treatment goals and resource conservation metrics.

Unit 2: Primary Treatment Technologies and Screening Methods

- Role of preliminary treatment in removing large solids and debris.
- Screening, grit removal, and sedimentation fundamentals.
- Characterization of heavy suspended solids in industrial effluent.
- Selection criteria for physical separation technologies.
- Sludge handling and dewatering practices for solid waste streams.
- Chemical conditioning for enhanced settleability.
- Operational considerations for high-load industrial streams.
- Case examples: primary treatment in metal finishing and food processing industries.

Unit 3: Biological Processes and Secondary Treatment Mechanisms

- Introduction to biological degradation and microbial metabolism.
- Activated sludge systems tailored for industrial organics removal.
- Extended aeration and high-rate biological processes.
- Biofilm reactors, trickling filters, and rotating biological contactors.
- Nutrient removal—principles and controls for nitrogen and phosphorus.
- Addressing industrial inhibitors and toxic compounds in biological systems.
- Process monitoring, aeration control, and oxygen transfer efficiency.
- Troubleshooting common operational issues in biological treatment units.

Unit 4: Advanced Treatment for Reuse and Recycling

- Tertiary filtration technologies—sand filters, media systems, and microfiltration.
- Membrane technologies: ultrafiltration, nanofiltration, and reverse osmosis principles.
- Chemical treatment strategies: coagulation, flocculation, and advanced oxidation.
- Adsorption media applications, including activated carbon and biosorbents.
- Disinfection options for industrial recycled water, including UV and chlorination.
- Water quality targets for industrial reuse—cooling water, process water, boiler feed.
- Integration of online sensors and automation to optimize treatment performance.
- Economic evaluation of advanced treatment options and life-cycle cost analysis.

Unit 5: Strategic Management, Monitoring & Continuous Improvement

- Industrial wastewater treatment plant performance metrics and KPIs.
- Environmental monitoring plans and compliance verification protocols.
- Data-driven decision making using treatment performance dashboards.
- Predictive maintenance and automation in wastewater systems.
- Benchmarking best practices from global industrial wastewater recycling programs.
- Leadership in environmental risk management and sustainability reporting.
- Developing implementation plans for new treatment technologies.
- Strategies to optimize energy consumption and reduce operational footprint.

Final Insights & Key Takeaways

By completing this course, participants will lead industrial wastewater treatment programs with technical confidence and strategic vision. They will be able to design, optimize, and manage treatment and recycling systems that align with environmental compliance, operational efficiency, and long-term sustainability goals.