

**biochemical (biological) oxygen demand (BOD)**

The amount of oxygen, divided by the volume of the system, taken up through the respiratory activity of microorganisms growing on the organic compounds present in the sample (e.g. water or sludge) when incubated at a specified temperature (usually 20 °C) for a fixed period (usually 5 days, BOD<sub>5</sub>). It is a measure of that organic pollution of water which can be degraded biologically. In practice, it is usually expressed in milligrams O<sub>2</sub> per litre.

1992, 64, 148