



5 Step Approach:

- 1. Identify the problem and list what is known and unknown**
- 2. Select an appropriate formula to solve the problem**
- 3. Arrange the formula to solve for the unknown**
- 4. Plug the known values into the formula and solve for the unknown value**
- 5. Convert answer to the appropriate units**

Example 1

The chlorination system is feeding the system at a dose of 1.5 mg/L. Find the system flow in gpm if the chlorine scale shows that 10 pounds were used in the last 24 hours.

Step 1 – Identify the problem and list what is known and what is unknown

Known

Unknown

Step 2 – Select the appropriate formula

Step 3 – Arrange formula to solve for unknown

Step 4 – Plug the known values in and solve for unknown

Step 5 – Convert answer to the appropriate units

Example 2

The Fluoridation system is feeding the system at a dose of 0.7 mg/L. How many pounds of fluoride are added per day if it is added to a flow of 560 gpm?

Step 1 – Identify the problem and list what is known and what is unknown

Known

Unknown

Step 2 – Select the appropriate formula

Step 3 – Arrange formula to solve for unknown

Step 4 – Plug the known values in and solve for unknown

Step 5 – Convert answer to the appropriate units

Example 3

What is the flow velocity in ft/sec for a 6 inch pipe that is full and has 125 gpm of water flowing through it?

Step 1 – Identify the problem and list what is known and what is unknown

Known

Unknown

Step 2 – Select the appropriate formula

Step 3 – Arrange formula to solve for unknown

Step 4 – Plug the known values in and solve for unknown

Step 5 – Convert answer to the appropriate units

PROBLEM SOLVING

Example 4

A settling tank that is 50 ft long by 20 ft wide and 12 ft deep is used to treat a flow of 2.5 MGD. What is the detention time?

Step 1 – Identify the problem and list what is known and what is unknown

Known

Unknown

Step 2 – Select the appropriate formula

Step 3 – Arrange formula to solve for unknown

Step 4 – Plug the known values in and solve for unknown

Step 5 – Convert answer to the appropriate units

PROBLEM SOLVING

Solve the following problems using the 5-step approach and the formula given:

$$\text{Detention Time} = \frac{\text{Volume}}{\text{Flow Rate}}$$

10. A settling tank that is 60 ft long by 30 ft wide and 12 ft deep is used to treat a flow of 3.4 MGD. What is the detention time in minutes?

11. A settling tank that is 52 ft long by 21 ft wide and 14 ft deep is used to treat a flow of 2.0 MGD. What is the detention time in minutes?

12. A settling tank that is 54 ft long by 22 ft wide and 13 ft deep is used to treat a flow of 2.9 MGD. What is the detention time in minutes?

PROBLEM SOLVING

Answers

1. 694 gpm
2. 617 gpm
3. 624 gpm
4. 5.6 lb/day
5. 4.7 lb/day
6. 6.4 lb/day
7. 0.8 fps
8. 0.4 fps
9. 2.6 fps
10. 68 min
11. 82 min
12. 57 min