

HISTORY OF SANITATION



3000 BC - INDUS VALLEY

Early proof that water management drives public health. Integrated canals, drains and linked latrines set the template for scalable urban hygiene.

2000 BC - EGYPT

Wells and water-distribution systems signal state capacity. Controlled access to water becomes a lever of governance, social order and productivity.



600 BC - ROME

Citywide sewers, baths, aqueducts and public fountains show sanitation as core infrastructure. A collective model that still informs modern planning and service delivery.

AD 500 - MIDDLE AGES
Loss of sewerage and organised systems increases health risk and economic disruption. The period illustrates the cost of underinvestment in essential infrastructure.



1854 - JOHN SNOW AND THE MODERN TOILET

Evidence linking cholera to contaminated water reframes sanitation as public health strategy. It accelerates modern sewerage and standardises the toilet, reducing disease and improving workforce wellbeing.

SANITATION – STRATEGIC VIEW

Etymology: from Latin **“sanare” (to heal)**. In practice: sanitation is foundational infrastructure that protects health, reduces systemic risk, raises quality of life and enables economic growth. It may sound technical; it is, above all, human, protective and value-creating.