Marine life: Mine waste contains heavy metals and milling chemicals that kill marine life and smother fragile ecosystems on the ocean floor.

Naturally occurring elements in crushed rock become toxic when exposed during mining:
- arsenic
- lead
- mercury

Harmful additives are used in processing:
- petroleum byproducts
- sulfuric acid
- cyanide

WHY MINE WASTE IS TOXIC

The amount of mine waste dumped into rivers, lakes, and oceans could fill 1.5 million shipping containers every year.

WHAT’S AT STAKE

It’s cheap for companies to dump waste into oceans, rivers, and lakes but the human and environmental costs are high.

Marine life:
Rivers, wetlands, and forests:
- Rivers clogged with mine waste change course, flooding vast areas of wetlands and forests with polluted water.
- Harmful metals and chemicals increase in concentration as they travel up the food chain.
- Livestock: Contamination can spread from rivers to floodplains and affect grazing livestock.
- Drinking water: Mine waste originally dumped into rivers has contaminated home drinking water.

WHO DUMPS INTO NATURAL WATER BODIES?

Barrick Gold (Canada)
Freeport McMoRan (USA)
First Quantum Minerals (Canada)
Highlands Pacific (Australia)
Newcrest Mining (Australia)
St Barbara Limited (Australia)
Ok Tedi Mining Ltd (Papua New Guinea)
PT Amman Mineral Nusa Tenggara (Indonesia)
Coeur Mining (USA)
Goldcorp (Canada)

7 HOT SPOTS FOR TAILINGS DumpING

Alaska
- Lower Slate Lake
- Frying Pan Lake

Canada
- Canadian lakes

Turkey
- Black Sea

Indonesia
- Senunu Bay
- Otomina and Ajkwa rivers

Papua New Guinea
- Luise Harbor
- Pigiput Bay
- Fly River
- Ngga River
- Besamuk Bay

Chile
- Llanquihue Lake

Norwegian fjords

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Four projects account for 91 percent of the waste dumped into water bodies each year:
1. Freeport McMoRan’s Grasberg mine in West Papua, Indonesia
2. Ok Tedi Mining Ltd’s Ok Tedi mine in Papua New Guinea
3. PT Amman Mineral Nusa Tenggara’s Batu Hijau mine in Indonesia (formerly owned by Newmont Mining)
4. Newcrest Mining’s Lihir mine in Papua New Guinea

EARTHWOR克斯
Earthworks.org
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Source: earthworks.org/campaigns/ditch-ocean-dumping