



UNDERGROUND EXPLORERS

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Hardrock Mine Feature Glossary

Adit:	A nearly horizontal passage from the surface into a mine. Adits are typically used for personnel access, haulage and dewatering.
Airway:	A passage through which air is carried.
Back:	The roof of a passage or cavity.
Backfill:	Mine waste or rock dumped in a disused passage or inside cribbing.
Bottom:	The floor of a passage or other excavation.
Dump:	Waste rock removed by mining and deposited on the surface (not tailings).
Collar:	The surface opening of a shaft.
Crosscut:	A passage driven perpendicular to the ore vein.
Cribbing:	Timbers laid at right angles to each other (like a log cabin) used to support the roof, sometimes filled with rock or debris.
Drift:	A nearly horizontal passage within a mine which generally follows the ore vein.
Foot wall:	The soil or rock below an orebody.
Hanging wall:	The soil or rock above an orebody.
Headframe:	Wood, steel or concrete structures constructed over a shaft to support pulleys used with cables and hoists for haulage and access.
Level:	Horizontal workings at different elevations.
Manway:	A vertical or inclined passage with ladders used for the travel of personnel inside the mine.
Ore bin:	A receptacle for ore awaiting sorting, milling or transport.
Overburden:	Layers of soil and rock covering the ore vein.
Pillar:	An area of rock or ore left to support the overlying strata.
Portal:	The entry point of an adit or tunnel.
Raise:	An inclined or vertical passage driven upwards within a mine.
Rib:	The side wall of a passage.
Shaft:	An inclined or vertical passage from the surface into a mine. Shafts are typically used for personnel access, haulage and ventilation.
Square set:	Interlocking timbers laid in boxes which can be stacked on top of each other or connected side to side.
Stope:	An underground space where ore has been removed. A stope which intersects the surface is known as an open stope.
Stull:	A horizontal supporting timber, prop or brace (also known as a stemple)
Sump:	A bottom of a shaft or winze specifically designed to collect water.
Timber:	A collective term for underground wood supports (also known as timbering).
Tailings:	The materials left over after the process of milling.
Tunnel:	A nearly horizontal passage from the surface into a mine that is open to the surface on both ends.
Void:	A natural cavity in the rock (also called vugs).
Waste:	Rock or mineral which has no value but must be removed from a mine to allow access to mineable ore.
Winze:	An inclined or vertical passage driven downwards within a mine.