

# How to prspect for gold



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How do you prospect for gold and what are the materials needed for placer mining? There are several different ways to prospect for gold. Such as, dry land prospecting, dredging in water, and placer mining. Placer mining is the digging of dirt in hills, streams, dry creek beds, and ravine??™s and taking that same material and running it through a sluice or a high banker, and finally panning through it to find flakes and nuggets of gold. I choose placer mining, because it is the cheapest and easiest way to get started without having much knowledge of mining. The following are some of the materials you will need in order to get started: a gold pan, a shovel, a pick, buckets, a magnet, a pry bar, a sluice, or a high banker.

Investing in classifiers and a snuffer bottle is also a good idea. The next step is finding a good area to prospect. Personally, I try to find areas that have been washed out from a storm like crevasses between mountains.

Other places I look for are rivers that have had a lot of water flow or rushing water from the winter run off. I look for these places because the gold gets washed down the mountains and in to these places. The first objects you want to look for are places with big rocks, and boulders gold seems to catch in front and behind these places, or places where the water slows down. High concentrations of black sand is another excellent place to prospect. Black sand is very heavy like gold and collects in the same places that gold would. There are two types of black sand, magnetite and hematite.

Magnetite is magnetic, and this is the type of black sand you should look for. Finding a place to put the sluice box is the next step. The sluice box is a level piece of metal that has riffles in it and a material called miners moss. The

water flows over the riffles causing the gold and heavier material to get trapped under the riffles. Miners moss is a product with a bunch of skinny pieces of rubber all weaved together causing the gold and heavier material to catch in it. You want to find a place to put the sluice box so that the back of the sluice box will drop down about four inches without going under the water. The front of the sluice box should have water coming into a V shape.

You can do this by building a dam around the sluice box edges with rocks and gravel. Next you find a spot that you want to dig and start digging while putting the dirt, sand, and rocks in each of your buckets. You will come across big rocks a lot of the time and this is where the pick and crow bar will come in handy. After you get a few buckets full dirt you want to classify it with your classifiers. Classifiers are different size screens that range from a half an inch to one hundred microns.

Next after classifying the dirt you are ready to start feeding it into the sluice box. When doing this you want to take small shovels full of the dirt and put it at the front of the sluice. After all the dirt has cleared the first riffle, you can start feeding more of the dirt into it.

Usually I try to do about fifteen to twenty buckets full of dirt, unless the riffles and miners moss are getting too full of material and there is no more room to catch the gold. Next, grab one of your buckets, and fill it up with clean water. Then take apart your riffles and rinse them in the bucket of water. Now take your miners moss and roll it up like you would a poster then put it in the bucket of water, swish it around, and unroll it back and forth until it is clean and free of debris. Now you are ready to start panning out the

material from your washout. First, dump most of the water out of the bucket from your washout without dumping any of the dirt or sand. Grab about two hands full of dirt; place it in your gold pan and try to find a calm place in the river or creek to start panning.

Then put one hand on each side of the pan directly across from each other, take the pan and push straight down in the water until it has filled the pan. Take one hand and start to agitate the material, and with the other hand hold the pan level. Next, shake the pan back and forth in a small circular motion, and continue for about ten seconds.

Tilt the pan away from your body while shaking it just until it reaches the edge of the pan. Take the pan, put it in the water and pull it back slowly, taking about ten percent of the material off of the top and into the stream, sometimes this takes a few tries to get it right. Next, we do the whole process over again and keep doing this until you get sixty to seventy percent of the material out. Now you can look for bigger chunks of gold in it and pick them out. Continue this process until you are down to just black sand. You can now take a little bit of water and start moving the pan in a figure eight motion, doing this will separate the gold from the sand, and leaving the gold away from your body, while the black sand goes to the other side of the pan.

Finally, grab your snuffer bottle and suck up the fine gold that is left in the pan. You can now correctly pan for gold.