

# LETHAL METALS

How can something as insignificant as this ...



Of the 2700 tons of gold produced by mines in 2013  
**59%** went to jewelry <sup>1</sup>

A single gold ring generates

**20 tons** of mine waste <sup>2</sup>



That waste is the equivalent weight of 3 school buses

... be worth all this?



Metal mining is the world's most toxic, destructive industry.

Metal mining is the **No. 1 toxic polluter** in the United States<sup>3</sup> including for



arsenic  
lead  
cadmium  
mercury

**50%** of gold mined comes from the traditional territories of indigenous peoples



Acid mine drainage from metal mining can pollute water **forever** <sup>4</sup>

Many modern mines require water treatment in **perpetuity**

Cleanup of one modern open pit mine can cost more than **\$250 million** <sup>5</sup>



At a cost of up to **\$64 billion** existing U.S. mines pollute up to **27 billion gallons** of water each year **forever** <sup>6</sup>

And yet ...



The **76,000 tons** of gold currently stockpiled in central bank vaults and with private investors would meet global industrial demand for **186 years**



EARTHWORKS

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Sources:

1. WGC/GFMS
2. Earthworks
3. U.S. EPA
4. U.S. EPA/USGS
5. New Mexico DEQ in High Country News
6. Earthworks