



## Where does salt come from?

There are two huge sources of salt on Earth. One is the salt that is dissolved in oceans and seas. The other is deposits of solid rock salt called *halite*, under the earth's surface. To get salt from ocean and sea water, the water is placed in large, open pools and allowed to evaporate. This causes the sodium and chloride ions dissolved in the water to recrystallize and form salt crystals.

There are two methods for getting salt from beneath the earth's surface. One technique is to drill down into a salt deposit and pump in large amounts of water to dissolve some of the salt. This salty water is then pumped to the surface and allowed to evaporate and recrystallize.

The other method is underground mining where long mine shafts and tunnels are dug to get down into the salt deposit. Machinery is used to blast, scrape, and dig the solid salt out of the ground. This salt is sent up to the surface where it is crushed and processed.



**Evaporating Sea Water**



**Salt Mine**