



RECYCLED GOLD CERTIFICATION



INTRODUCTION

ECO-ASSURE™ is a green initiative undertaken to help reduce the carbon footprint of the jewelry manufacturing process and show that we care about the environment.

Every Eco-Assure™ Jewelry Report carries the SGL Eco-Assure™ logo which is an assurance that the jewelry is manufactured using 100% recycled sustainable gold, tracked and audited with rigorous protocols.



The earth's crust contains a finite amount of gold. While there's still some of the yellow metal out there to be mined, discoveries of gold mines have dropped off over the years. Some analysts believe that the world's supply of un-mined gold could run out in the next couple of decades. We may soon find ourselves in a world where mining and extraction from the earth's crust may not be economically feasible, and our access to additional gold may end. Hence, it is now more important than ever to facilitate the recycling of gold. In many ways, gold recycling is better for the planet and better for you.

As the World Gold Council notes, "Annual demand requires more gold than is newly mined, and the shortfall is made up from recycling." Without gold recycling, there's a chance there wouldn't be enough gold to go around. The use of recycled gold is one way for us to assert our commitment to reduce the environmental impact.

By incorporating such materials into their supply chains, manufacturers can claim a lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emission impact, a reduction of our planet's resources' extraction and, in some cases, a product composition that does not fuel human rights or environmental abuses.

For more than a decade the jewelry industry has been promoting the use of recycled gold when referencing a responsible Chain of Custody (COC) and a statement of provenance or traceability.

IMPACT OF GOLD MINING

HUMAN RIGHTS

A recently published article from Human Rights Watch highlights some of the key human rights abuses that can take place in the gold mining industry.

For instance, in Venezuela, a high number of reserves of precious metals, including gold, is controlled by armed rebels.

Those syndicates “exert strict control over the populations who live and work there, impose abusive working conditions, and viciously treat those accused of theft and other offenses.”



WASTE

One single gold ring can potentially create a staggering 20-tons of mining waste! This waste contains toxic chemicals which can contaminate the nearby water supply and soil.

In some cases, local residents are exposed to chemicals such as mercury, which creates serious long-term illnesses. Mercury is a cheap product used to reveal the gold from the rock. Unfortunately, it causes devastating long-term impacts on the people and the planet.

IMPACT OF GOLD MINING

USE OF WATER

Large-scale projects can use an average of 60,000 - 100,000 cubic meters of water every day.

It would provide the basic water needs for a population equal to that of a large U.S. city for a year!



ACIDE MINE DRAINAGE

One major issue with Underground Mining is called Fool's Gold, or Iron Sulphides. It occurs when the rock reacts with oxygen to make what is then called Sulfuric Acid.

This acidic process drains from the mine site and can be up to 300 times more concentrated than acid rain!

Once this process begins, it is very complicated to stop the spread of contamination in the water.

IMPACT OF GOLD MINING

AIR POLLUTION

The electricity produced by burning coal and other fossil fuels in the mining process generates air pollution, smog, and greenhouse gases.

As gold mines are typically large-scale operations requiring a sufficient amount of heavy machinery and earth-moving vehicles, airborne pollution is a significant environmental issue.



WILDLIFE

One major issue with Underground Mining is called Fool's Gold, or Iron Sulphides. It occurs Gold mining destroys local wildlife, habitats and important ecosystems, mostly because of the pollution produced and the vast amount of land each mine required.

For instance, the largest mine in the world, the Grasberg Mine, located in Indonesia, operates on 27,400 acres of land and has been a source of ongoing friction and conflict due to its negative environmental impact on the surrounding ecosystems.

ECO-ASSURE™



Eco-Friendly



Zero Waste



Sustainable



Carbon-Neutral