

Pitting and Trenching

What is this Activity?

Pitting and Trenching are used to see a more complete picture of the rock. Heavy equipment is used to remove the surface soil and expose the bedrock. Trenches or pits are then excavated or blasted into the rock to expose mineralized zones for sampling and testing.



Footprint on the Land

Pits are shallow, square shaped holes while trenches are longer, linear and variable in depth. Rock and soil removed from the trench or pit is stored on site. Some rock samples will be shipped away for testing.



Mining Act Requirements

An activity that removes less than one cubic metre of material within a 200-metre radius does not need an exploration plan or permit.

An activity that removes one cubic metre of material and up to three cubic metres within a 200-metre radius needs an exploration plan.

An activity that removes more than three cubic metres of material within a 200-metre radius needs an exploration permit.



Provincial Standards for Early Exploration

All early exploration activities that require an exploration plan or permit must follow the Provincial Standards for Early Exploration. There are three parts to these Provincial Standards:

1. Rules for carrying out exploration plan activities.
2. Rules for carrying out exploration permit activities.
3. Rules for rehabilitation of exploration plan and exploration permit activities.

During pitting and trenching programs, the Provincial Standards must be followed for an exploration plan and an exploration permit where a pit wall or vertical man-made rock face is greater than three metres in height:

- Install a high visibility barrier fence of at least one metre in height, with a setback of at least 3 metres from the brow of the rock face or pit.
- Post “Danger Open Pit” signs made of durable waterproof material. They must be posted in suitable locations to warn people about the potential hazard.
- Pits must be sloped to provide at least one ramp to use as an exit.
- Stockpile disturbed bedrock on site in a safe and stable manner.

The rehabilitation requirements in the Provincial Standards must be followed. Rehabilitation must be done after the exploration activity is complete, or before the exploration plan or permit expires.

- All pit walls or man-made vertical rock faces greater than three metres in height must be backfilled or contoured to a stable angle of repose.
- All pits with walls greater than three metres in height if not backfilled must be sloped
- To provide at least one ramp to use as an exit.
- Stockpile disturbed bedrock on site in a safe and stable manner.

For the official and most up to date information on the rules for carrying out these exploration and rehabilitation activities, please refer to:

- [The Mining Act](#)
- [Exploration Plans and Exploration Permits Regulation](#)
- [Provincial Standards for Early Exploration](#)

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