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Where to Find Gold

Before you can discover **where to find gold**, you first must know **what kind of gold deposit** you are seeking— Placer deposits or Lode gold. Lode gold occurs within the solid rock in which it was deposited and is best left to large-scale hard rock mining ventures.

Placer gold, because of its weight and resistance to corrosion, is the easiest to find and extract. Placer gold is a concentration or accumulation of different varieties of gold (flakes, wire gold, nuggets, pickers, flour gold) and is found in sediments of a stream bed, beach, drainage basin, river, or other waterway.

In addition to "wet" localities, placer gold occurs along many of the intermittent and ephemeral streams of arid regions, too. In many of these places a large reserve of placer gold may exist, but the lack of a permanent water supply for conventional placer mining operations requires the use of dry or semi-dry methods, such as a [dry washer](#), to recover the gold.

No matter what type of gold prospecting you want to do, you'll have the best chance of success if you first systematically study existing and known productive areas. Why prospect where others have already been, you wonder? Over the years, new and [better equipment](#) has been developed, which means today you can more easily find placer gold deposits that were missed by earlier prospectors who used only a gold pan or an inefficient sluice. Nowadays, you can rely on [professional trommels](#), power sluices, dredges, highbankers, [automatic spiral gold panning machines](#), and lots of [fine gold recovery](#) methods that didn't exist in the days of the '49ers or before. You can even [treasure hunt](#) quite successfully with [gold detectors](#) nowadays.