



# Sterling Silver



47 108  
**Ag**  
Silver

## Sterling Silver Earrings

- 92.5% silver
- 7.5% copper (usually)

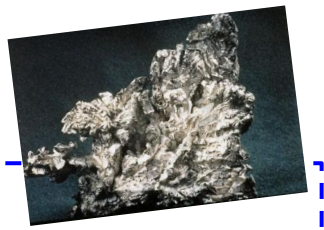
[For something to be classified as sterling silver, it must be composed of 92.5% silver or more.]

### What's The Purpose of Them?

Earrings are typically made of nickel, which some people who have sensitive ears may be allergic to...

Sterling silver (silver+copper) earrings are hypoallergenic, allowing even sensitive ears to wear them!

## Earrings



### What is Silver (Ag) ?

Silver is a soft, metallic element that has a shiny gray-white appearance.

Chemical composition: Silver, and sometimes mixed with mercury, arsenic, gold, and antimony. A silver atom always has 47 protons and 47 electrons.

### Why is Silver Special?

*Silver is a very unique metallic element...*

- has antibacterial properties
- the most conductive (thermal and electrical) material
- one of the most malleable and ductile metal
- polished silver is excellent for reflecting light.

A world without silver would be a world without electronics, water purifiers, high-quality mirrors, tableware, coins, jewelry, and even some medicine!



## Silver Mining in Canada

~ Mining is one of Canada's top industries! ~

- In 2015, Canada produced over 12.2 million ounces of silver - 14th largest supplier in the world.
- The leading silver mining provinces are British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick.
- Recently, silver mines in Yukon and Nunavut have been discovered.

Some examples Canadian silver mining companies + a mining site that they own:

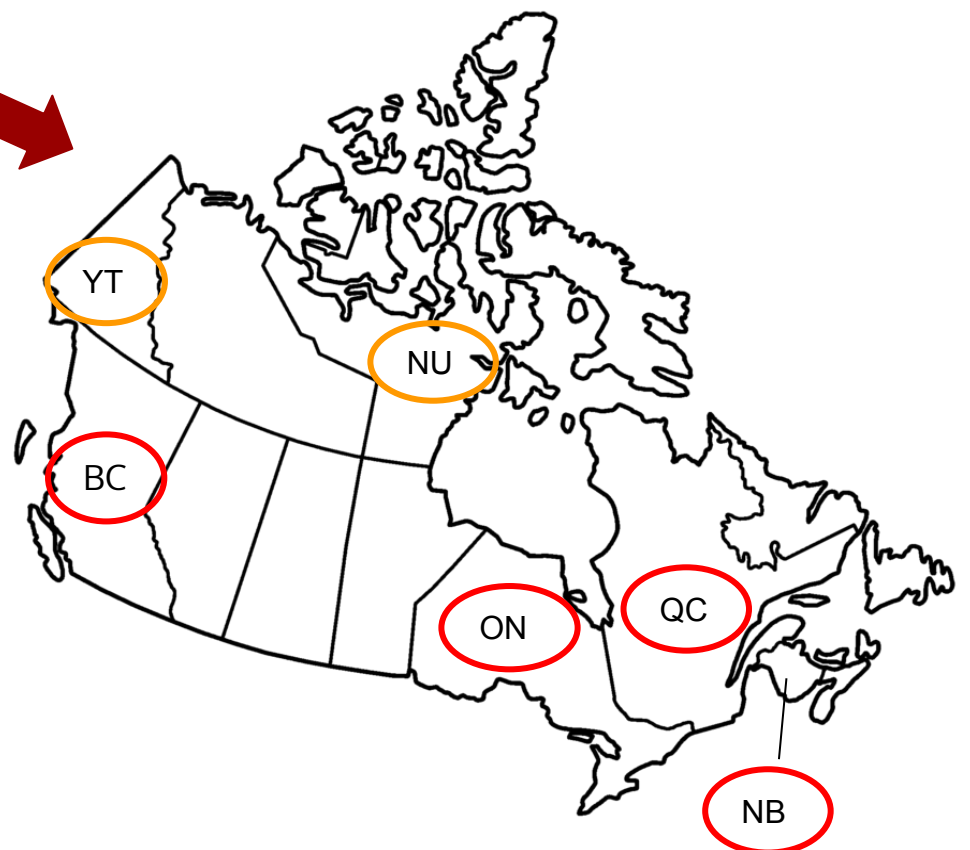
- Nicola Mining Inc. (B.C.) [Merritt Mill and Tailings Facility]
- Aura Silver Resources Inc. (ON) [Greyhound Property]
- Trevali Mining Corp. (B.C.) [Caribou Mine]

## How Silver is Mined

Silver is usually the by-product of the processing of other metal ores, like gold, lead, copper, and zinc.

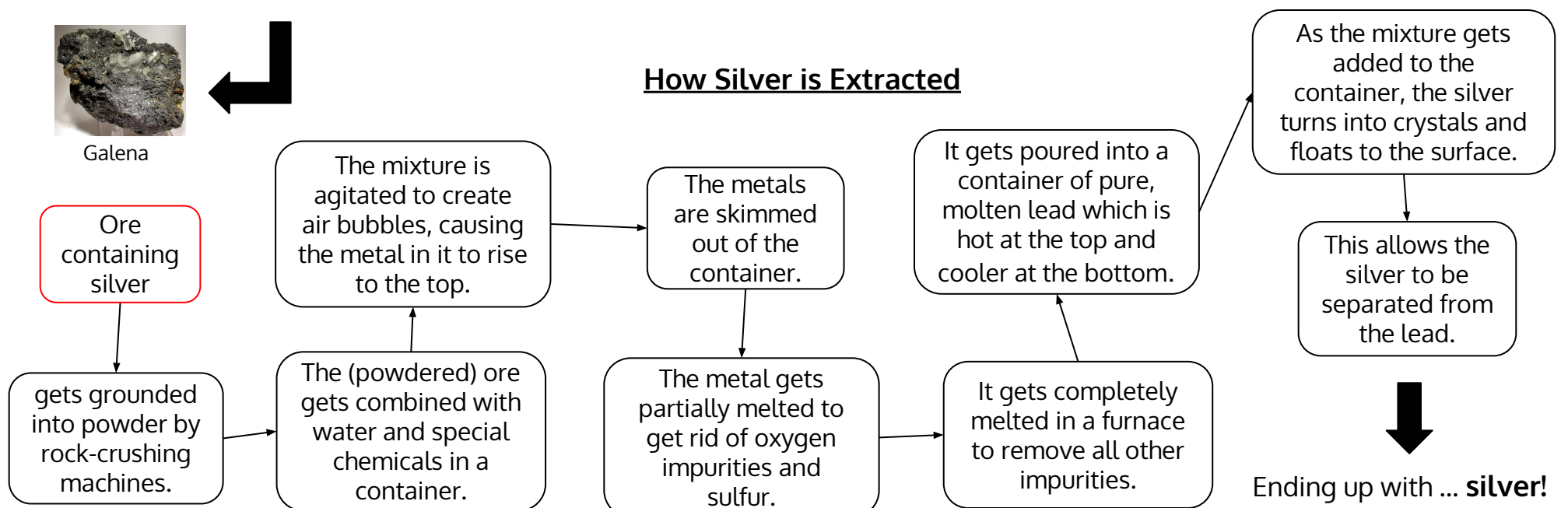
So, depending on what ore it was extracted from, the mining process varies.

Example: Galena is a lead ore that is mined primarily for its lead content, but it produces a little bit of silver as well. Galena is mined underground, where the ore is "drilled and blasted" from surrounding rock.



Galena

## How Silver is Extracted



Silver is a non-renewable resource, meaning that there is a limited amount of it on Earth.

\* Over time, it will run out, so we must make sure to conserve it as much as we can! \*