

# YOUR HOUSE COMES FROM A MINE



Come inside and tour your house from a miner's point of view. Miners have seen a lot of it before, when they mined the raw materials used to build it.

The majority of the raw material used in building your home was furnished by the mining industry.

- ▶ The **foundation** is probably concrete (limestone, clay, shale, gypsum, and aggregate mining.)
- ▶ The **exterior walls** may be made of brick (clay mining) or stone (dimension stone mining).
- ▶ The **insulation** the walls may be glass wool (silica, feldspar, and trona mining) or expanded vermiculite (vermiculite mining).
- ▶ The **interior walls** are usually wallboard (gypsum mining).
- ▶ The **lumber** in the structure will be fastened with nails and screws (iron ore and zinc mining).
- ▶ If the **roof** is covered with asphalt shingles, the filler in the shingles is from a variety of colored silicate minerals from mining.
- ▶ Your **fireplace** is probably of brick or stone, lined with a steel box (iron ore mining).
- ▶ Your **sewer piping** is made of clay or iron pipe (clay or iron ore mining).
- ▶ Your **electrical wiring** is of copper or aluminum (copper or bauxite mining.)
- ▶ Your **sanitary facilities** are made of porcelain (clay mining).
- ▶ Your **plumbing fixtures** are made of brass (copper and zinc mining), or stainless steel (nickel and chrome mining).
- ▶ Your **gutters** of galvanized steel (iron ore and zinc mining).
- ▶ The **paint** is manufactured with mineral fillers and pigments (from minerals obtained by mining).
- ▶ Your **windows** are made of glass (trona, silica sand, and feldspar mining).
- ▶ Your **door knobs, locks and hinges** are of brass or steel (copper, zinc, and iron ore mining.)
- ▶ And finally, your **mortgage** is written on paper made from wood or cloth fibers, but filled with clay (from clay mining).

**Developed by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Mines**

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