

## What types of materials can be dredged?

**Dredging is the process of removing sediment or debris from the bottom of a water body, such as a river, lake, or harbor, to increase the depth of the water or to remove contaminants.**

The types of materials that can be dredged depend on the specific needs and goals of the dredging project. Here are some common types of materials that can be dredged:

1. **Sand:** Sand is one of the most common materials that is dredged. It can be used for beach nourishment or to replenish eroded shorelines.
2. **Silt and clay:** These materials are fine-grained sediments that can accumulate in harbors, channels, and other waterways. Dredging them can help maintain the navigability of the waterway and prevent sedimentation.
3. **Gravel and rocks:** These materials are often dredged to maintain or create navigable channels, or to remove obstructions in shipping lanes.
4. **Organic matter:** Sometimes, organic matter such as decaying plants or debris from storms can accumulate on the bottom of a waterway. Dredging can remove this material and prevent it from causing blockages or reducing water flow.
5. **Contaminated sediment:** In some cases, dredging is necessary to remove sediment that has been contaminated by pollutants such as heavy metals or chemicals. This type of dredging is typically done as part of an environmental cleanup effort.