

## Slag (man-made)

Slag is not a mineral, but a byproduct of metal smelting. During the smelting process, the slag forms a protective crust of oxides and other undesirable impurities on top of the metal being smelted. The floating crust is then removed and disposed in slag heaps or used for other purposes. Hundreds of tons of slag are produced every year in the process of refining metals and making alloys. Although most industrial byproducts are useless, slag can be used in concrete, railroad construction and even used as a component of phosphate fertilizers. PK28

