



# How we source materials responsibly

Apple works with suppliers to responsibly source all materials — whether from primary or recycled sources — used in Apple products.

## Apple Responsible Sourcing Toolbox

- Innovate in materials sourcing
- Map the supply chain and establish strict requirements
- Understand risks by using supply chain tools such as the Risk Readiness Assessment
- Conduct third-party audits of primary and recycled materials processors
- Address risks that are found
- Publish smelter and refiner list annually
- Increase recycled and renewable content
- Support local communities
- Engage with civil society and support local human rights and environmental defenders
- Strengthen industry traceability systems to increase transparency
- Develop and drive common industry standards
- Provide training to supply chain actors to strengthen due diligence



### We set high standards.

Our requirements and human rights due diligence practices are aligned with international standards and frameworks, including the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas.

#### Identifying risks.

We require our suppliers to identify and assess a broad range of risks, including social, environmental, and human rights risks for materials used in Apple products. We support this work by training suppliers, and working with partners, to develop and scale tools to support risk management across global supply chains.

#### Strengthening industry standards.

In addition to setting our own rigorous standards, we support the development of industry-wide standards. We participate and serve in leadership capacities across multiple industry associations and initiatives. This includes the Responsible Business Alliance (RBA) — where we previously served on the board of directors and continue to actively participate in working groups and task forces — as well as the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI), where we currently serve on the steering committee.



### We map and prioritize materials.

Our goal is to one day use only recycled or renewable materials for our products and packaging. We use data to understand the environmental, social, and supply chain impacts of materials used in our supply chain. We also work to map the origin of those materials to guide our responsible sourcing strategy.

#### We prioritize materials for transition to recycled or renewables.

Looking across commonly used mined materials, and weighting them against the amount of each Apple uses, we've identified 15 priority materials that represent the biggest opportunities for impact across environmental, social, and supply chain criteria: aluminum, cobalt, copper, glass, gold, lithium, paper, plastics, rare earth elements, steel, tantalum, tin, titanium, tungsten, and zinc. These materials accounted for more than 85 percent of the total product weight shipped to our customers in 2025. Each is outlined in detail in our [Material Impact Profiles](#) white paper.<sup>1</sup>

#### We work to identify the origin of materials used in our products.

We work to map our supply chain to the smelter and refiner level and, to the extent available, to the mining level. Through this process, we identify smelters and refiners that provide tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold (3TG), cobalt, and lithium to our suppliers, as well as other materials — such as mica, copper, graphite, and nickel. Our suppliers are required to identify the origins of all materials they use, whether that be a recycler, smelter, refiner, or, in the case of biological materials, a farm.

#### Responsibly sourcing primary materials.

Although Apple does not source primary material directly from mine sites, our responsible materials sourcing program includes requirements that apply to all suppliers' sourcing across the supply chain.



### We verify and report.

Every year, we publish a list of all identified 3TG, cobalt, and lithium smelters and refiners in our supply chain. In 2016, we became the first electronics company to publish a list of cobalt refiners in our supply chain, and in 2020, we were the first to publish a list of lithium refiners.

#### Conducting third-party audits.

Suppliers are only permitted to use or source key materials for Apple products from smelters, refiners, and recyclers who have completed, or demonstrated progress towards completion of, responsible sourcing audits. We also work closely with third-party audit programs, such as those operated by RMI and the London Bullion Market Association.

For the past decade, all of the identified 3TG and cobalt smelters and refiners in our supply chain have participated in assessments conducted by accredited third-party auditors, as required by our Responsible Sourcing of Primary, Recycled, and Renewable Materials Standard. All identified lithium refiners also continue to meet our requirements each year. If smelters or refiners are unable or unwilling to meet our standards, we take necessary actions, through our suppliers, to terminate the applicable business relationships. Since 2009, Apple has directed the removal of 206 3TG, 17 cobalt, and 9 lithium smelters and refiners from our supply chain.<sup>2</sup>

#### Addressing allegations.

We take allegations related to our supply chain very seriously — and we expect our suppliers to do the same. We require our suppliers to review and address any incidents reported to them involving their materials supply chains. We provide support to help suppliers complete corrective actions in line with OECD Due Diligence Guidance.



### We empower independent voices and local communities.

We support industry platforms, such as the RBA Voices platform, and grassroots organizations that enable people living and working in and around mining communities to voice concerns. And as we pursue our goal to one day use only recycled or renewable materials in our products, we partner with international development organizations to support communities as they transition away from mining activities.

#### We support communities in their transition from mining.

For nearly a decade, Apple supported the NGO Pact in developing a localized program to deliver rights awareness training, vocational education, and financial access and literacy to mining communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). This also included support for communities as they transition away from participation in mining activities.

#### We support vulnerable populations in the DRC.

In 2025, we supported Panzi Hospital and Foundation, which provides holistic care for survivors of sexual violence in the DRC.

#### We support human rights and environmental defenders.

Since 2017, we've partnered with the Fund for Global Human Rights to deliver flexible funding and support to human rights and environmental defenders working in mining communities.

#### We invest in environmental restoration and communities.

Since 2017, we've worked with the nonprofit RESOLVE on projects aimed at restoring and rehabilitating ecosystems that have been affected by legacy mining operations. This includes Regeneration, a project focused on re-mining and processing waste material from legacy mines to further restore natural environments and promote biodiversity.

<sup>1</sup> Since publishing the "Material Impact Profiles" white paper, we've expanded our analysis to include biodiversity factors.

<sup>2</sup> The total number of 3TG smelters and refiners directed to be removed from Apple's supply chain since 2009 represents a cumulative count with smelters and refiners only counted once, when first removed from Apple's supply chain. 3TG smelters and refiners may subsequently re-enter the supply chain if they meet Apple's Code and Responsible Sourcing of Primary, Recycled, and Renewable Materials Standard, and other 3TG mineral requirements.