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10 World's Worst Pollution Problems

[Blacksmith Institute](#) in collaboration with Green Cross Switzerland issued a Top Ten list of the world's most dangerous pollution problems. The report names pollution as one of the leading contributing factors to death and disability in the world and highlights the disproportionate effects on the health of children.



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The Top Ten list includes commonly discussed pollution problems like urban air pollution as well as more overlooked threats like car battery recycling. The problems included in the report have a significant impact on human health worldwide and result in death, persistent illness, and neurological impairment for millions of people, particularly children. According to the report, many of these deaths and related illnesses could be avoided with affordable and effective interventions. [Read more about Blacksmith Institute](#)

There are three primary factors taken into consideration when ranking the Toxic Twenty and Top Ten: Pollutant, Pathway and Population. More innocuous contaminants receive a lower ranking, while those more dangerous substances, say mercury or lead, receive a higher ranking.

The Top Ten list are *NOT RANKED* against each other and therefore are presented in alphabetical order.

1. [Artisanal Gold Mining](#)
2. [Contaminated Surface Water](#)
3. [Groundwater Contamination](#)
4. [Indoor Air Pollution](#)
5. [Smelting and Processing](#)
6. [Industrial Mining Activities](#)
7. [Radioactive Waste and Uranium Mining](#)
8. [Untreated Sewage](#)
9. [Urban Air Quality](#)
10. [Used Lead Acid Battery Recycling](#)

SOURCE: "The World's Worst Pollution Problems 2008" Blacksmith Institute, 3 Apr 2009 <http://www.blacksmithinstitute.org/>



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