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pieces of rocks
that holds the
alcite.
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made of gravel
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an conglomer-
just about any
such as quartz
stone is similar
sized particles.
mainly of clay-
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Limestone Calcium carbonate is carried in solution in ocean water. When calcium carbonate (CaCO_3) comes out of solution as calcite and its many crystals grow together, limestone forms. Limestone also can contain other minerals and sediments, but it must be deposited on the bottom of lakes or shallow seas. Large areas of the central United States have limestone bedrock because seas covered much of the country for millions of years. It is hard to imagine Kansas being covered by ocean water, but it has happened several times throughout geological history.

Rock Salt When water that is rich in dissolved salt evaporates, it often deposits the mineral halite. Halite forms rock salt, shown in **Figure 15**. Rock salt deposits can range in thickness from a few meters to more than 400 m. Companies mine these deposits because rock salt is an important resource. It's used in the manufacturing of glass, paper, soap, and dairy products. The halite in rock salt is processed and used as table salt.

Organic Sedimentary Rocks

Rocks made of the remains of once-living things are called organic sedimentary rocks. One of the most common organic sedimentary rocks is fossil-rich limestone. Like chemical limestone, fossil-rich limestone is made of the mineral calcite. However, fossil-rich limestone mostly contains remains of once-living ocean organisms instead of only calcite that formed directly from ocean water.

Animals such as mussels, clams, corals, and snails make their shells from CaCO_3 that eventually becomes calcite. When they die, their shells accumulate on the ocean floor. When these shells are cemented together, fossil-rich limestone forms. If a rock is made completely of shell fragments that you can see, the rock is called coquina (koh KEE nuh).

Chalk Chalk is another organic sedimentary rock that is made of microscopic shells. When you write with naturally occurring chalk, you're crushing and smearing the calcite-shell remains of once-living ocean organisms.

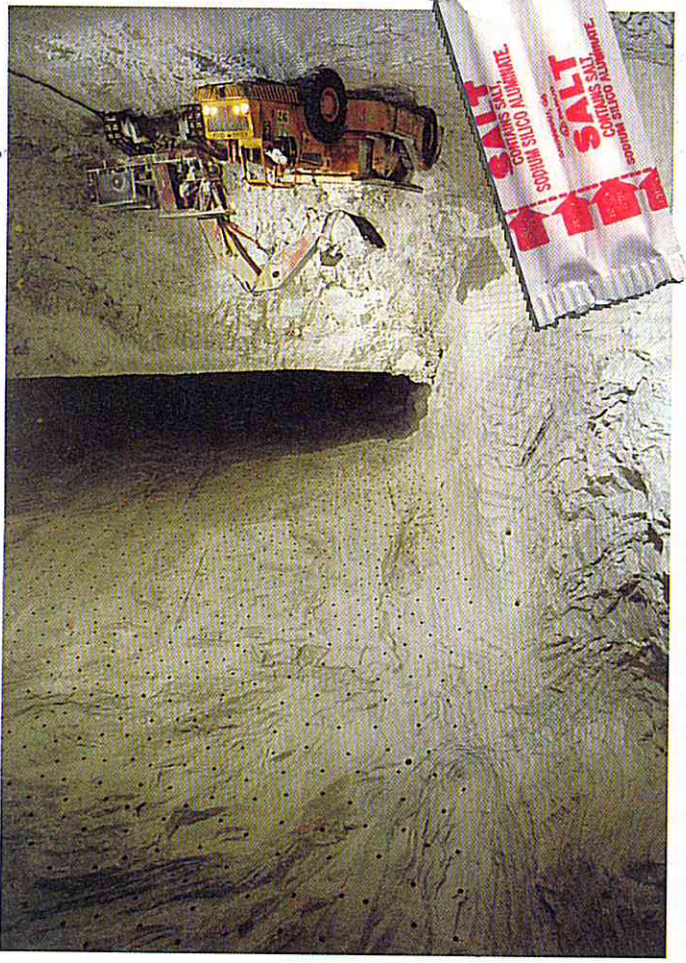


Figure 15 Rock salt is extracted from this mine in Germany. The same salt can be processed and used to season your favorite foods.