

Drilling muds:

<i>Mud type</i>	<i>Advantages</i>	<i>Disadvantages</i>
Air	Cheap, fast	No well control
Foam (of water and gas)	Good removal of cuttings	Little well control?
Water-based muds	Cheap	Swelling of shale; Washout in salt; poor lubrication
Oil-based muds	Good lubricant; won't dissolve salt beds; won't cause swelling of clays	Expensive; <u>enviro/health problems</u> ; very hard to clean from cuttings
Synthetics	Environmentally friendly (e.g., no BTX compounds)	Expensive; hard to clean from cuttings