

Mixing of Sediments Destroys Layering

Burrowing animals and plant roots disrupt layering of sediments. Mixing (bioturbation) is normally much more rapid than deposition. At high densities, seafloor burrowers can mix the top 10 cm (4 in.) of sediments in about one hour.

Sediments that are layered with well-defined bedding were probably deposited rapidly, and/or in the absence of burrowers.



Fiddler crab burrows and mangroves cause mixing of layers

Image: USGS, Public Domain