1. Profanities, Insults, etc.
Across Spanish-speaking Countries

Below I have classified different insults, profanities and general obscenities into seven different categories. Within each I have explained and labeled which countries typically use them and in some cases have inserted variations that can be found. I have also tried to classify everything into general categories that illustrate what Spanish profanities seem to revolve around.

As with insults in English, there are some that are mild and there are some that are quite strong. Although along with this there are insults that can be strengthened with other profane words I have not added them for the most part to lessen repetition. The following is also by no means an exhaustive list, as my goal was to provide a good enough of amount to show what insults/profanities tend to revolve around in Spanish.

General

1. Chingado/a
2. Chingate
3. Cierra el pico Costa Rica
4. Mamón
5. Puta/putona
6. Bésame el culo
7. Vete a la mierda (Andate a la mierda)
8. Pedazo de mierda
9. Zorra
10. Jodete
11. Joder

1. “Fucker”. Found in Mexico, comes from the verb chingar.
2. “Fuck yourself”. Typically found in Mexico.
3. “Shut your mouth” – can be found across different countries, though the source listed Costa Rica. The word pico meaning ‘beak’ is an insulting word when used for mouth.
4. Literally, “Sucker”. It can also be an insulting word for someone who is extremely arrogant or a snob. Mexico, Costa Rica
5. “Bitch/big bitch”
6. “Kiss my ass”
7. A strong insult literally meaning, “Go to the shit”.
8. “Piece of shit”
9. Literally, fox, it can be used as an insult for “Slut”.
10. “Go fuck yourself/ Fuck off”. From *joder*, ‘to bother’ or ‘to fuck’. Central America

11. The best translation for this is “Fuck!”, as it is used in Spain like one would use the exclamation “Fuck!” in the United States.

**Mother-directed (and some sister-directed)**

Many insults revolve around insulting the mother in some form or another. The reason for this, it's fair to suppose, is because no one likes their mom to be insulted and hence the insults are appropriately considered very insulting. Anything written in parentheses is a possible variation or pronunciation. Finally, also note that some can be used as an exclamation and also as an insult.

1. Tu madre
2. La (puta) madre que te parió
3. Chinga (a) tu madre
4. Mal parido
5. La puta que te parió
6. Hijo de puta (Hijueputa)
7. Hijo de la gran puta
8. Me cago en tu (puta) madre
9. Nieto de puta
10. Singa tu madre
11. Hijo de perra (Hijueperra)
12. Coño de madre/Coño
13. Tu puta madre me la chupa
14. Su mama (La suya)
15. Hijo de puerca (Hijuepuerca)
16. Chucha de tu madre
17. Concha de tu madre
18. Jode su madre
19. Puta madre!

1. The most basic of mother-directed insults and often used as a counter meaning, “Your Mother”.

2. Literally, the translation is “The mother who birthed you”, but that translation doesn’t capture the insult. Normally when you talk about giving birth to a baby or someone, you use the verb “tener”, which is perfectly okay and not insulting whatsoever. However, the verb ‘parir’ is a very offensive and vulgar word that also refers to the act of birth. It is a very harsh sounding word and the use of it is quite insulting. The closest translation that I
found was the verb “to whelp” in English, but I’m not sure if that is ever used as in insult anywhere or if it truly captures the insulting weight of “parir”. I am aware of a few countries that certainly do use the verb parir as an insult (El Salvador, Argentina, ) but I believe that this insult can be found in many others as well.

3. Though the verb “chingar” is most often associated with the Mexican culture, according to my mother it can also be found in El Salvador and other places but not in such a great amount. “Fuck your mother”.

4. “You’re an ill-birthed (child)” is the closest literal translation possible. The insult, “malparido” is one that is only used if one truly wants to insult the other person. The word comes from the verb, malparir, which means ‘to miscarry’, so calling someone malparido is like saying their birth was illegitimate or dirty. It is a term to difficult to explain since it has no real English counterpart, but it is a term with much meaning in Spanish.

5. “The whore who birthed you”. The insult, puta, can best be translated as ‘whore’ or ‘bitch’, both having a pretty equal meaning. In terms of the strength of the insult, it is a quite strong and demeaning one. Argentina, Uruguay, El Salvador.

6. “Son of a bitch”. The spelling found in parentheses is the orthographic way of showing how it often sounds when pronounced. Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, etc. It is a quite generally found insult.

7. “Son of a great bitch”. Apart from being an insult, this can also be used as an exclamation, similar to saying ‘son of a bitch’ for a cry of surprise or anger.

8. “I shit on your (bitch) mother”. Very vulgar. Spain

9. “Grandson of a bitch”. Costa Rica

10. “Fuck your mother”. The verb singar meaning ‘to fuck’ is supposedly only found in Caribbean Spanish slang.

11. “Son of a dog (bitch)”. For the most part this is another way of saying ‘son of a bitch’, but it does have a slightly different connotation in Spanish nonetheless. I believe this insult goes hand in hand with the idea of being called an animal, or having traits of certain animals, as being degrading and insulting.

12. Literally, “Pussy of mother”. This can be used as an insult but also an as exclamation. You can often hear it used as Coño only, and that would be similar to saying ‘fuck!’. 
Venezuela,
13. Literally, “Your (bitch) mother sucks me it”.
14. “Your mother” or “Yours (feminine)” is usually used as a counter for an insult.

Colombia
15. “Son of a pig” Again, another insult with a reference to an animal. Colombia
16. Literally, “Mutt of your mother”, the word _chucha_ in this context can be better translated as ‘cunt’, as is therefore considered a very strong insult. Ecuador, Chile
17. Similar to the above, this is instead literally translated as “Shell of your mother”. The word _concha_ means shell in Spanish, but in this use it is a much more vulgar and insulting word. There are also many variations of this insult, one of which can be directed toward the sister, such as _Concha de tu hermana_ or ‘Shell (cunt) of your sister’. Chile, Argentina, Uruguay
18. “Fuck your mother”. The verb _joder_ can mean a different number of things depending on the context. In this sense it means ‘to fuck’.
19. “Bitch mother!” Used as an exclamation for anger, surprise etc.

**Religion-based**

1. Me cago en Dios {Cristo, la hostia}
2. Me cago en vos
3. La concha de Dios
4. Me cago en tus muertos
5. Hostia (puta)!
6. Me cago en la puta virgen
7. Me cago en Dios y en la puta Virgen
8. Maldito!
9. Demonios!
10. Diablo(s)!
11. ...la madre de Dios
12. Vete al Diablo Costa Rica
13. Vete al infierno

1. “I shit on God{Christ, the sacramental host}”. Used as an exclamation. Spain
2. “I shit on you” Typically Spain
3. “The shell of God”. Very vulgar, it is used as an exclamation. Spain
4. Literally, “I shit on your dead”.
5. The word *hostia* is used in many ways and with different variations, but the literal meaning of it is ‘sacramental host’ or ‘communion wafer’. In this simple sense, it is used in Spain often as an exclamation.


7. A further addition to the profanity above meaning, “I shit on God and the bitch virgin”.

8. Best translated as, “Damn!” this too can have many variations with altering degrees of strength.

9. This can be translated as either “Hell!” “What the hell?” or “Demons!”, and it is used as an exclamation. Argentina

10. Literally, “Devil(s)!”

11. Translated as, “…the mother of God”, this can be used to further strengthen an exclamation by adding it to the end.

12. “Go to the devil”

13. “Go to hell”

**Attacks on the person’s indolence/laziness (Insults)**

Some of these insults are based on saying one has ‘big testicles’. This reference is intended to have the connotation of the person having such big testicles that it has made them too lazy to do anything, that they are useless, that they are stupid, or even that they’re simply lazy. However, no matter what the intended meaning is, they are all still insults.

1. Huevón
2. Boludo
3. Cerote
4. Maleton
5. Maleta
6. Güevon
7. Inútil
8. Pajero

1. Best translated as, “Big testicled”, it used to call someone a lazy-ass. El Salvador,
2. Best translated as, “Big testicled/balled”, this too is used to call someone a lazy-ass, or can also be used to call someone stupid. In Argentina, when used among friends this word does not have the insulting meaning but instead one more along the lines of ‘dude’.
3. “Shit” or “Piece of shit” it can be used to refer to someone who only sits there, doing nothing, like shit would.
4. Literally, “Giant luggage”, it also used when referring to someone who sits there and does nothing. Mexico
5. “Suitcase” This word also is insulting when used to call someone useless and in the way, much like the way a suitcase just sits there.
6. Variant spelling of huevon, it’s best translated as “Big testicled” as well. Colombia
7. “Useless”
8. This term can either be translated as “Wanker”, “One who fiddles with himself” or, for lack of a better term, “Bullshiter”.

**Insults attacking the person's intelligence/general character**

1. Pendejo
2. Imbécil
3. Estúpido
4. Burro
5. Animal
6. Comemierda
7. Cara de mierda
8. Eres pura mierda
9. Bruto
10. Idiota
11. Perra/o
12. Retardado Mexico
13. Desgraciado
14. Tonto
15. Cabrón/Cabrona
16. Pinche (____)

1. “Dumbass”
2. “Imbecile”
3. “Stupid”
4. “Literally, “Donkey”, it is used when calling someone a little slow or stubborn.”
5. “Animal” Calling someone an animal
6. “Shit-eater” Guatemala, El Salvador,
7. “Shit face” El Salvador
8. “You are pure shit”. The insult denotes that the person isn’t worth anything.
9. “Stupid” or “Dumb”.
10. “Idiot”.
11. “Dog”
12. “Retarded”
13. “Digraced” or “Shameless”, this insult is often used to tell someone they have no shame for what they do, they have no character, no morals, etc.

14. “Dumb”

15. Though the literal meaning is “Male Goat”, this term is used for both insulting and uninsulting purposes. It can mean bastard, asshole, or even fucker/motherfucker when used in countries located in Central America, but in Mexico the term can be used among friends in an uninsulting manner, for example when two friends greet each other. In this sense the term does not have its insulting connotation but one more of friendship. In the Dominican Republic, it can also be an insulting term used to call someone a cuckold.

Mexico, Dominican Republic, Central America.

16. From Wikipedia: “In Spain, it mainly means a restaurant chef assistant or a kitchen helper who helps cook the food and clean the utensils. Another meaning is used as an insult, as in pinche güey ‘loser’, or to describe an object of poor quality, está muy pinche ‘It really sucks’. In Mexico, it is very offensive and is often equivalent to the English terms damn, freakin’ or fuckin’, as in estos pinches aguacates están podridos ‘These damn avocados are rotten’; Pinche Mario ya no ha venido ‘Freakin’ Mario hasn't come yet’; or ¿¡Quieres callarte la pinche boca!? ‘Would you like to shut your fuckin' mouth?’. Sometimes pinchudo(a) is said instead. In Puerto Rico pinche simply refers to a hairpin, while pincho has the same meaning in Dominican Spanish.”

**Sexually-based**

1. Chupámela
2. Mamón
3. ¡Coño!
4. Mamagüevo
5. Mamavergas
6. Comepinga

1. Literally, “Suck me it”. Mexico

2. Literally, “Sucker”, it is typically found in Mexico. It can also be an insulting word for someone who is extremely arrogant or a snob.

3. Used as an exclamation, the best translation would be like the English ‘Fuck!’ or ‘Shit!’ although the vulgar literal translation is ‘cunt’.

5. “Cocksucker” The word verga is one of the many vulgar words used for penis. The term mamavergas is found in Costa Rica.
6. “Cocksucker” or literally, ‘cock-eater’ it is a term found in Cuba, utilizing another word for penis.

**Homosexual Insults**

1. Maricón
2. Marica
3. Mariposo
4. Culero
5. Puto

1. “Fag” or “Faggot”
2. Derived from maricón, the term can mean ‘sissy’ or ‘pansy’ but generally means ‘faggot’ as well. Guatemala
3. Literally, “Butterfly” it is also used to call someone gay insultingly. Guatemala
4. Generally speaking it can mean “Asshole” but in some countries it refers to a male homosexual in a more insulting way than not. El Salvador, Mexico
5. Literally the masculine form of “Bitch”, it is intended to mean “Faggot”. In El Salvador at least, and perhaps in other Central American countries, the term puto is used insultingly for a guy who gets around a lot with women and is a sort of player.

[www.urbandictionary.com](http://www.urbandictionary.com) is also a very good source for looking up Spanish insults.
And where I found many insults in different countries: [http://www.myinsults.com/all-insults](http://www.myinsults.com/all-insults)

**A note on Argentina**

According to a variety of different sources - including a family friend - profanities, use of bad words, etc., are always and consistently said and heard in Argentina. Young children, adults, old ladies and old men all partake in heavy usage of bad words and profanities no matter the time of day, and it is perfectly normal to do so. One article I read noted that in Mexico, for example, the use of bad words suddenly or openly might cause a reaction in others around, but in Argentina the use of profanity is so widely accepted and done that it isn't such a big deal.
Final Note

Many of Spanish insults or profanities tend to revolve around the categories mentioned above and also around animals that represent/have unfavorable qualities. I can imagine also that some insults can overlap between neighboring countries, i.e. an insult found in Argentina may also be found in other South American countries, a Nicaraguan insult may also be found in other Central American countries etc.

And finally, though some profanities come from references to sex and male/female genitalia, I did not list all the varying terms used among different countries (although the Wikipedia article lists a lot if you are interested.)