

Humans and lead

- Small amounts of lead can affect the nervous system, cause anemia and increase blood pressure.
- Children are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning. It can permanently lower IQ and cause learning disabilities and aggressive behavior.
- The effects of lead poisoning are permanent and untreatable.



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More hunters are turning to non-lead

- Non-lead ammunition provides premium performance on game.
- Using non-lead ammunition reduces lead exposure in wildlife and people.
- Many major manufacturers already produce non-lead ammunition and the number of options continues to grow.

Information in this brochure is drawn from dozens of studies and years of research. For more details, visit huntingwithnonlead.org

Wildlife and lead

- Bald eagles and other animals are poisoned when they eat lead fragments in carcasses and gut piles.
- Scavengers will feed in groups and many species will share a carcass. One carcass can poison multiple birds and other animals.
- Wildlife rehab centers report spikes in lead poisoning each year during and after big game hunting seasons.

Why Non-lead Ammunition?

Continuing our conservation heritage



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On impact, lead ammunition loses a portion of its weight, spreading toxic fragments along the wound channel and throughout the body.



Fragments of lead remain in the carcass and in the discarded gut pile.

Burying the gut pile doesn't solve the problem. Scavenging animals can unearth buried gut piles, re-exposing the remains and the lead fragments for consumption.



Scavenging animals ingest lead fragments when eating gut piles.



Photo courtesy of The Peregrine Fund

This x-ray shows the many fragments left behind in a mule deer neck shot with a lead bullet.



Small, toxic pieces

This X-ray of a deer gut pile shows lead fragments.



This X-ray shows a bald eagle with lead fragments in its stomach.

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Hunters are helping.

Hunters are choosing to use non-lead and taking other actions to reduce lead exposure. The result: significant reduction of lead available to scavenging wildlife.

