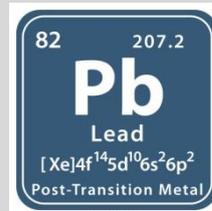
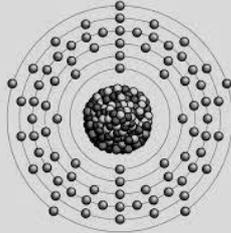


# LEAD



Well here it is:



**It's been used for thousands of years. Many believe it wiped out the Roman Empire!**

**For us, it is the metal of which our bullets and pellets are made.**

**Why are bullets and pellets made of lead?**

- It's cheap
- It has a very high density
- Once it is moving it has a high kinetic energy
- It melts at a relatively low temperature
- It is easy to mould into shape for mass production
- It is soft so deforms easily on impact

$$KE = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

**What can lead do to us?**

Lead is a heavy metal poison. At low levels it interferes with cellular chemistry. Extremely high levels can cause death. Growing people are particularly vulnerable.

**Will a substitute for lead bullets and pellets for target shooting soon become available?**

Unlikely. Use of any other soft heavy metal (gold?) would be prohibitively expensive. Harder metals, including a copper casing for the bullet or pellet, would degrade the rifling of barrels. This would mean that chance rather than pure skill would influence accuracy.

**Read on for the good news!**



### **How can we protect ourselves and our loved ones from the risks of lead in our club?**

Small amounts of lead are ejected from the barrels of our firearms; less so from air firearms. Being of high density the particles quickly fall to the ground. If they remain suspended in the air, the air extraction apparatus on our ranges will rapidly remove them. Our air extraction system complies with the legal requirements set out in lead contamination protocols. This means that the amount of suspended lead in the air we breathe on the ranges is close to the levels experienced outside the ranges.

Of more concern is the lead residue left on our hands after touching bullets and pellets. Very little if any lead is absorbed by normal unbroken skin. The risk, small though it is, is if our skin comes in contact with our mouth or nose.

**Do not eat or drink in the ranges**

**Wash your hands before leaving the club**

**Wash clothes frequently worn for shooting**

Our ranges are cleaned regularly by club members who have the experience to know how to do so safely.

**Please do not attempt to do this without first having received the relevant training.**

Happy and safe shooting to you all!