

Experienced hunters would agree that the best hunt takes only one pull of the trigger to drop the animal with a quick, humane kill. No hunter wants to harm non-target wildlife.

However, when the target is dispatched with lead-based bullets and the remains are left for other animals like eagles, hawks, and falcons to eat, there is potential for lead exposure to those animals. Lead shotgun pellets can also sicken ground-feeding birds when they mistake the pellets for seeds or grit.

Lead Spreads

Lead-based bullets fragment upon impact with a target. When an animal ingests these fragments, the consequences can be fatal.

- ▶ The animal eventually dies either from the lead poisoning itself or because it cannot hunt or ward off predators.
- ▶ Lead attacks the nervous system, causing tremors, convulsions, cognitive delays, poor coordination and paralysis of the GI tract.
- ▶ Lead dissolves in the animal's stomach and is absorbed into the bloodstream, tissues and bones.

This brochure is a collaboration between Nature's Educators and Denver Audubon staff and volunteers. It is funded by grants from the Audubon Colorado Council and National Audubon Society.



**NATURE'S
EDUCATORS**

www.natureseducators.org



www.denveraudubon.org

Explore
non-lead & more

www.huntingwithnonlead.org

Has a comprehensive list of places that carry non-lead ammunition for a wide variety of firearms.

www.nonleadpartnership.org

A coalition of hunters, anglers and other conservationists dedicated to improving ecosystem and wildlife health by choosing non-lead options.

www.nwf.org/Outdoors/Our-Work/Lead-Free-Landscapes

Lead-free Landscapes. National Wildlife Federation promotes the voluntary adoption of lead-free alternatives for hunters and anglers

www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/lead-in-wild-game

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment Public Health recommendations on non-lead ammunition, firearms, and game meat.

www.denveraudubon.org/huntingwithnonlead

Provides additional information and resources on the impacts of lead ammunition.



Continuing a
**Conservation
Tradition**





Non-Lead

Quarter
For Size

Lead
Injected by a
Turkey Vulture

Lead

Personal experience highlights the effectiveness of non-lead

After learning how dangerous lead bullets are to non-target species, many hunters like you are making the switch to a better, safer, higher-quality ammunition.



“I’ve been using non-lead ammunition for my big-game hunting for over 10 years, and I continue to be impressed by its accuracy and knock-down power. I switched to non-lead ammunition because I care about the environment...the ammunition has always been high performing and we recommend it to all our friends.”



Dave E.
Audubon Member &
Life-long hunter

Continuing a Valued Conservation Tradition

Hunters have been leaders in wildlife and habitat stewardship for over 100 years and remain a strong force in conservation.

Now, that tradition continues as hunters partner with conservation organizations championing the change to non-lead ammunition in the 21st century.

Non-lead Ammunition Works!

Non-lead bullets are just as effective and accurate as lead bullets. While they expand like lead, they retain 98% of their mass, resulting in a long, straight wound channel. Non-lead bullets also deposit fewer fragments in the target.

Non-lead bullets are typically made of copper or copper alloys. Continued advancements since the 1980s by ammunition manufacturers have made numerous calibers and bullet weights widely available.

Non-lead is Cost Effective

Non-lead ammunition generally costs the same as premium lead products, and sometimes less when purchased online.

Ammunition is often the least expensive part of a hunt and one of the only things that touches the animal you harvest.

