

Lead Free for You & Your Family!



Lead is a heavy metal that is commonly used in gun ammunition and occasionally in solder used to repair maple syrup equipment. Lead exposure in children can cause brain and kidney damage, and lifelong impacts such as learning problems. In adults health implication, such as high blood pressure, infertility, and increased risk of miscarriage. According to the CDC, there is no safe blood lead level. Follow the steps below to help keep lead out of food.



Photograph shows lead bullet fragments scattered throughout a deer's ribcage.

Harvesters:



The difference between a **lead ammunition** (pictured on the left) and a **nontoxic copper ammunition** (pictured on right) seen in the picture above.

Choose Lead-Free Ammunition. Lead bullets easily fragment when hitting a target, sending small and microscopic lead fragments far away from the point of entry or exit. This makes it nearly impossible to remove all the lead before consuming.

Choose Pellet Sizes Larger Than Size 6 for Turkey Hunting. A recent study indicated that smaller pellet sizes, namely size 8 & 6, are more likely to leave lead in the breast meat.

Processors:

Inspect Equipment for Lead. Food surfaces containing lead can contaminate maple sap and other foods when they come into contact. Metal maple sap collection buckets patched with lead solder are a prime example.

Clean Grinders Often. Lead free meat should be ground before meat harvested with lead bullets. When grinding meat shot with lead, clean the grinder between carcasses to prevent higher lead concentrations mixing into meat with lower lead concentrations.



Remember:

Copper and Steel make for a safe meal!

Use stainless steel pans for maple syrup processing and copper ammunition for hunting to reduce your risks of heavy metal contaminants.



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