Hunters are continuing their proud tradition of wildlife conservation by using non-lead alternatives. Eagles, condors, and other birds feed on carcasses and gut piles. When those remains contain spent lead ammo remnants, wildlife eat the lead and die. Bullet and ammo manufacturers now offer numerous effective non-lead options for rifles and shotguns. Hunters are helping by using these alternatives.

A Better Approach: Use Non-lead Bullets

To compare fragmentation between two lead bullets and two non-lead alternatives, all were fired into ballistic gelatin at 50 yards. The gelatin blocks were then X-rayed.

Both bullet types expanded equally, but non-lead bullets showed little to no fragmentation. In comparison, lead bullets fragmented into hundreds of pieces. When striking bone and hide, fragmentation increases significantly. In game meat, these fragments are very difficult to remove during processing.

Do non-lead bullets expand as quickly as lead bullets?
Yes. The specially engineered nose cavity begins expanding as soon as it contacts hide and flesh. Tests in gelatin show comparable expansion between lead and non-lead bullets.

Are non-lead bullets as accurate as lead?
Yes. These bullets supply exceptional accuracy and terminal performance over a wide range of velocities. Try different brands and grain weights to see which shoots best in your rifle.

Do non-lead bullets often shoot through deer-sized game?
Yes. Rapid expansion results in impressive energy transfer in game, matching or exceeding lead bullet performance. Pass-through shots result in a very long and large wound channel.

Do non-lead bullets foul or wear out my barrel faster?
No. Today’s non-lead bullets affect barrels in the same way that copper-jacketed lead bullets do. As with any bullet, proper firearm cleaning is essential.

LEAD BULLETS

NON-LEAD BULLETS

LEAD core Bullet

Solid Copper

Tipped Alloy-core

Frangible

Small Caliber

ALTERNATIVES TO LEAD

Dotted lines show the bullet’s path from left to right.

www.huntingwithnonlead.org