

## Lead Sources

**Vehicle lead-acid batteries are probably the biggest source of lead in your village.** Go to:

[http://www.zender-engr.net/docs/battery\\_leadacid.pdf](http://www.zender-engr.net/docs/battery_leadacid.pdf) to find out how to package and backhaul these batteries. But **once you have your lead-acid batteries under control, there are other important lead sources** to do something about, that contribute more lead to your environment than household lead batteries.



**Household batteries should be recycled.** Some household batteries may contain lead. See our dedicated household battery recycling document at [http://www.zender-engr.net/docs/battery\\_household.pdf](http://www.zender-engr.net/docs/battery_household.pdf) for more information.

**Computers must be kept out of our unlined dumps.** Besides lead, they have lots of other health-risk associated heavy metals and chemicals. Computer manufacturing plants have contaminated local water sources all over the world.

See [http://www.ccthita-swan.org/Tutorials/computer\\_recycle\\_intro.cfm](http://www.ccthita-swan.org/Tutorials/computer_recycle_intro.cfm) about recycling computers and what they contain. Work with your school to make sure they ship their computers back to a responsible computer recycler, or at least a Class I lined landfill away from an area that people live from the land.

**Lead shot and sinkers need to be replaced as a long-term goal:**

Working towards **reducing lead shot and lead sinkers, and replacing them** with lead-free substitutes will be a gift to your children and descendants and lands. You can accomplish this through community education, trade-in/subsidy programs, and actions on getting the cheapest lead-alternatives into your community.



**Lead shot and sinker effects:** If waterfowl ingest lead from shot or sinkers, they can die within 3 - 6 weeks, and many more will contract one or another common bird illness, brought on by a lead-caused weakening of their immune systems. Worse still, some of those sick birds could start epidemics that kill many of their non-poisoned companions. In fact, the available reports indicate that as many as **five waterfowl may die from lead-related causes for every one** that has an actual lethal poisoning.

**Health-wise, it is better for a community to continue subsistence no matter what kind of shot or sinker is used.**

**Steel Shot:** But for those who can **afford it and find it, steel shot is much better**, and should be a **community goal**. If you come across lead shot or sinkers while hunting, pick them up (with gloves), and bring them back in. Consider ways to encourage folks to switch.

First, make sure steel shot is available locally in your stores. Does your store have access to internet? **Offer to find the cheapest steel shot prices for your store.** Look up "steel shot" in Google or Yahoo Search engines. You might be able to bring the price down for your store(s) to just a little over one dollar difference for a case. In Alaska, lead shot is usually imported from Mexico, and steel shot from Canada, or the Northwest. **Other ideas:** Provide steel shot as raffle prizes, and consider using Bingo profits, or plan a lead shot pollution prevention demonstration/education program that can subsidize the cost difference.



**Lead sinkers and jigs:**

See [http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/fishing/alter\\_e.cfm](http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/fishing/alter_e.cfm) for a list of lead-free sinkers and jigs. That link will also take you to general information about lead sinkers and their effects. And <http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/publications/AbstractTemplate.cfm?lang=e&id=1031> is a good technical (i.e. long) summary of effects. Also, <http://www.moea.state.mn.us/reduce/sinkers.cfm>

**For more information about lead go to:**

EPA Region 10 Lead Program	<a href="http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/OWCM.NSF/lead/lead1pg">http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/OWCM.NSF/lead/lead1pg</a>
National EPA Lead Program	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/lead/">http://www.epa.gov/lead/</a>
The National Lead Information Center	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/nlic.htm">http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/nlic.htm</a>

**Also, the EPA Region 10 Lead Contact is:**

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