

Lead Encyclopedia Article

Lead

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Lead

One of the oldest metals known to humans, lead compounds were used by Egyptians to glaze pottery as far back as 7000 B.C. The toxic effects of lead also have been known for many centuries. In fact, the Romans limited the amount of time slaves could work in lead mines because of the element's harmful effects. Some consequences of lead **poisoning** are **anemia**, headaches, convulsions, and damage to the kidneys and central nervous system. The widespread use of lead in plumbing, **gasoline**, and lead-acid batteries, for example, has made it a serious **environmental health** problem. Bans on the use of lead in motor fuels and paints attempt to deal with this problem.

See Also

Heavy Metals and Heavy Metal Poisoning; Lead Shot