

LEAD-CONTAINING SEALANT

Lead is a very hazardous material. According to the US EPA, it “can affect almost every organ and system in your body.” While materials such as paints and coatings have been known to contain lead, a lead-containing sealant was recently found being used on a mine site by pipefitters. The sealant is called “*Red-label Masters Metallic Compound*” and is a gasket and thread sealant which contains more than 80% lead by weight.

Sealants are designed to be used where liquids are involved to prevent leaks, such as connecting pipes and plumbing, and may be used by various types of mine service workers.

Because lead is so hazardous, lead-free alternatives should be considered and used wherever possible. The most effective way to control lead exposure is to **remove it entirely by using lead-free products**.



There may be an assumption amongst workers that their employer is only providing safe products to use. It is the mine manager’s responsibility to ensure:

- Workers have completed WHMIS education and training
- That a person who works with or may be exposed to a hazardous product in their work is informed about all the hazard information from the supplier

Recommendations:

- Review all product Safety Data Sheets (SDS) before the items are brought to the site
- Use safer alternatives where practicable
- Implement mitigation measures to reduce exposures to *As Low As Reasonably Achievable* (ALARA)
- Encourage workers to check the product SDS before they use hazardous products

Workers involved in the use, handling or storage of hazardous products should be able to answer four questions:

- What are the hazards of this product?
- How am I protected from these hazards?
- What do I do in case of a spill or emergency?
- Where can I get more information on the hazards?

Resources:

- [A Guideline to Reducing Inorganic Lead Exposure \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/health-safety-reclamation/code-for-mines-in-bc/)
- [Lead - WorkSafeBC](https://www.worksafebc.com/)
- [SAFETY ALERT: Red-label Masters Metallic Compound » PLCAC \(pipeline.ca\)](https://www.pipeline.ca/safety-alert-red-label-masters-metallic-compound)