

## **Lead-free alternatives: Manufacturers and retailers**

*Lead is a known toxin that is commonly used in fishing weights and jigs. When ingested by wildlife, it is 100% fatal. Non-lead fishing tackle is not a novelty product. Ask for it at retailers and shops, and visit these tackle web sites:*

**Bass Pro Shops** | [www.basspro-shops.com](http://www.basspro-shops.com)

Search their web site for "XPS" and "Excalibur" weights (tungsten), "Ultra Steel 2000," and "Sticky Weight" tungsten putty, "Lake Fork" tungsten jigs, Gremlin Green "bismuth worm sinkers," and "Safe-Sink" densified plastic worm weights.

**Big Ten Tackle** | [www.bigtentackle.com](http://www.bigtentackle.com)

An online source for ceramic and steel sinkers.

**BossTin** | [www.bosstin.com](http://www.bosstin.com)

Fishing weights made of tin, including split shot, stylers, swivel sinkers, and a variety of egg and bullet sinkers.

**Bullet Weights** | [www.bulletweights.com](http://www.bulletweights.com)

Alternative terminal tackle products. "Ultra Steel" sinkers and interchangeable jigs; tin split shot; tungsten bullet and screw-in weights.

**Cabela's** | [www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com)

This retailer carries many brands of "non-toxic fishing weights" in their online catalog.

**Conquistador Tackle Company** |

[www.conquistadortackle.com](http://www.conquistadortackle.com)

The Conquest tungsten bullet slip weight is available in seven different sizes.

**Double Necker Rigs** | [www.doublenecker.com](http://www.doublenecker.com)

Fishing rig made from recycled beverage bottles. Use as a bobber or a weight.

**Dr. Drop tungsten composite sinkers** |

<http://drdropsinkers.com>

Tungsten composite sinkers use exclusive "friction grip" allowing for fast attachment and retrieval. New for 2006, a "click and slide" weight, as well as traditional bullet and bell sinkers in several weights.

**Eagle Claw Fishing Tackle** | [www.eagleclawclassic.com](http://www.eagleclawclassic.com)

Colorado retailer's online catalog includes non-toxic removable split-shot made of tin, and a variety of steel sinkers (bass-casting, egg, and rubber core).

**First Mate Lures, Inc.** | [www.firstmatelures.com](http://www.firstmatelures.com)

Online retailer of non-toxic tackle made from a bismuth/tin alloy. Jigs, drop shots, bottom bouncers, and slip sinkers, available in a variety of styles and sizes.

**Fiskas Wolfram Jigs** | [www.yourbobberson.com](http://www.yourbobberson.com)

Tungsten jig heads in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors. Available at many retailers throughout the U.S. and Canada; made in Sweden.

**Flambeau Outdoors** |

[www.flambeauoutdoors.com/fishing.asp](http://www.flambeauoutdoors.com/fishing.asp)

"Safe-Sink" worm weights and jig heads are made from a proprietary nontoxic plastic material with tungsten that promises the same specific gravity as lead, so the weights are the same size.

**Gitzit, Inc.** | [www.gitzitinc.com](http://www.gitzitinc.com)

Lead-free "Little Tough Guy" and "Micro Little Tough Guy" jig heads.

**Green Tackle** | [www.greentackle.com](http://www.greentackle.com)

Manufactures unpainted round jig heads and pyramid sinkers made from a bismuth-tin alloy; many sizes offered. Green Tackle is also an online retailer of "environmentally friendly" tackle, including lead-free and biodegradable options.

**Hookem Lures** | [www.hookemlures.com](http://www.hookemlures.com)

Each Hookem lure uses glass as its weight. These lures are basically jig heads: durable, nontoxic, and offered in a range of colors and sizes.

**Jackfish Lures** | [www.jackfishlures.com](http://www.jackfishlures.com)

Jigs and sinkers made of bismuth.

**JC Manufacturing** | [www.planer-board.com](http://www.planer-board.com)

Cast-iron downrigger weights in 4, 6, 8, and 10-pound sizes. The torpedo-style weights are covered with a soft plastic which makes them easy on your boat.

**Keitech** | <http://keitech.co.jp/english/>

Tungsten-composite bass jigs and round head jigs.

**Lead Free Jig Heads** | [www.leadfreejigheads.com](http://www.leadfreejigheads.com)

Online retailer of tin/bismuth alloy sinkers and jigs in a variety of styles.

**Lindy Fishing Tackle** | [www.lindyfishingtackle.com](http://www.lindyfishingtackle.com)

The Techni-Glo Rattl'n Flyer Spoon is made from a tin/pewter alloy with a brass rattle. Eco-Safe E-Z Tube Weights are made of a tin/pewter alloy, and available in four weight sizes, with and without rattles.

**Loon Outdoors** | [www.loonoutdoors.com/sinkets.html](http://www.loonoutdoors.com/sinkets.html)

The "Deep Soft Weight" (1 oz.) is made from tungsten.

**Lucky Strike Bait Works Ltd.** |

[www.luckystrikebaitworks.com](http://www.luckystrikebaitworks.com)

Jigs, jig heads, sinkers, and split-shot made from nontoxic bismuth and tin.

**Northland Fishing Tackle** | [www.northlandtackle.com](http://www.northlandtackle.com)

The "Nature Jig" is 100% lead free, cast from a nontoxic bismuth/tin alloy.

**Pallatrax USA** | <http://pallatraxusa.com>

Weights in the Stonze System are made from naturally occurring stones. Available in a range of sizes and colors, in swivel and in-line versions.

**Panther Martin** | [www.panthermartin.com](http://www.panthermartin.com)

"Big Belly" spinners are made from stainless steel and come in a number of sizes.

**Penetrater Weights** | [www.penetraterweights.com](http://www.penetraterweights.com)

Tungsten steel bullet-style worm weights available in a variety of colors.

**PJ's Finesse Baits** | [www.ejigs.com](http://www.ejigs.com)

Non-toxic tackle made from bismuth: Maribou jigs, Barbless Woolly Buggers, Eggboos, and Wormaboos.

**Recycled Fish** | [www.recycledfish.org/safe-angling/safe-angling-kits.htm](http://www.recycledfish.org/safe-angling/safe-angling-kits.htm)

All new for 2009! The SAFE Angling Kit has everything you need to catch fish, and do so as a steward of lakes and streams. Packed with name-brand gear--non-lead

(**Recycled Fish Cont.**) weights, biodegradable molded lures, circle and cam-action hooks--these kits are ready to go. Great for the novice or a seasoned angler making the switch to non-toxic weights and baits. Visit the web site for participating retail locations.

**River2Sea** | [www.river2seausa.com](http://www.river2seausa.com)

California-based manufacturer of non-toxic tungsten sinkers and bismuth/tin alloy buzzbaits and spinnerbaits.

**Rocky Ledge Bass Tackle** | [www.rockyledge.com](http://www.rockyledge.com)

Spinnerbaits, buzzbaits, and jigs made from pewter.

**Rocky Brook Sinkers** | [www.rockybrooksinkers.com](http://www.rockybrooksinkers.com)

Fishing weights made from limestone. Weights from 1/10 oz. to 1/2 oz. Same weight as lead, but not as dense.

**Salamander Sinkers** | [www.salamandersinkers.com](http://www.salamandersinkers.com)

Steel sinkers with a new, patent-pending design for terminal tackle. Nontoxic, snag-resistant, and weight-adjustable.

**South Bend** | [www.south-bend.com](http://www.south-bend.com)

Eco Weights are made from highly pressurized iron oxide, and come in many weights and styles: worm weights, egg sinkers, and bank sinkers. Also makes steel removable split-shot sinkers.

**Tacklesmith** | [www.tacklesmith.com](http://www.tacklesmith.com)

Wisconsin-based online retailer of lead-free sinkers and jigs made from a variety of non-toxic metals.

**The Gapen Company** | [www.gapen.com](http://www.gapen.com)

Minnesota manufacturer sells some tin jigs, including the Crappie Vixen and The Jerk.

**XCalibur Baits** | [www.xcaliburtackle.com](http://www.xcaliburtackle.com)

XCalibur Tungsten fishing weights in bullet, barrel, and drop-shot versions.

**Yakima Bait Co.** | [www.yakimabait.com](http://www.yakimabait.com)

The Hildebrand® product line includes many spinnerbaits made from molded bismuth or tin.

*For more information about LoonWatch, contact the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at 1411 Ellis Avenue, Ashland, WI 54806, 715-682-1220, or visit our website at <http://www.northland.edu/loonwatch>*