

Galena

Galena - PbS



Galena Cube - w/ Calcite Crystals



Galena Octahedron

Galena is one of the most abundant and widely distributed sulfide minerals. Galena is the principle ore of lead, and forms glistening silver cubes, octahedron, and combinations of both together and all with almost perfect shape edges.

Lead is toxic to humans and also other animals. When you are exposed to lead, it accumulates in your body and over long periods of time; eventually reaching toxic levels, which in the long run will cause physical and nervous system damage. It is a major carcinogenic poison and it is also teratogenicity causing birth defect to offspring.

The Romans loved lead—they used it in everything from water pipes to their tableware. Lead, was used by people of Turkey in about 6500 BC. And was used by the Romans and Greeks in about 2000 BC. There was so much lead used in pipes to carry water that many of the people lost their minds and went crazy because of lead poisoning.

We still rely on Lead today: for and flux to paints it is still found in batteries and bullets, high energy shielding (such as X-ray blankets and nuclear reactor enclosures). Formerly it was used as an additive to paints and gasoline, and as a storage solution for corrosive chemicals.

It is a good idea not to let children play with Galena, even though the lead is more or less tied up with sulfur in its crystal structure.

It is a very good habit for everyone that handles Galena to wash; their hands when any project is completed.

I recommend that everyone wash their hands at the end of projects or fieldtrips involving the collecting any type rock, mineral or fossil.

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