

Lead Ammunition Ban – Member Update (2026)

Following recent Government changes, the UK is moving to **phase out most lead ammunition** over the next few years.

Key Dates

- **1 April 2026** – Law introduced (transition period begins)
 - **1 April 2028** – Some restrictions start (mainly at outdoor ranges)
 - **1 April 2029** – **Full ban comes into force** for most uses
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What will be banned (from April 2029)

Shotguns

- Lead shot **cannot be used or sold** for:
 - Clay shooting
 - Live quarry shooting

Rifles

- Lead bullets banned for live quarry shooting in:
 - **.243 (6.17mm) and above**
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What is NOT affected

- **.22 / small calibre rifles** (below .243)
 - **Airguns (no change)**
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Important points

- You **cannot stockpile lead and use it after the ban**
 - The rules cover both:
 - **Use**
 - **Sale / supply**
 - Some limited exemptions exist (e.g. elite athletes, certain ranges)
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What this means for you

- Shotgun users should plan to switch to **steel or other non-lead cartridges**
 - Rifle users with **.243 or larger calibres** will need **non-lead bullets (e.g. copper)**
 - Most modern guns are already compatible, but check with a gunsmith if unsure
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For club members

- Expect gradual changes in:
 - Ammunition availability
 - Range rules and guidance
 - Further updates will follow as we approach **2028–2029 deadlines**
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Bottom line

- Lead ammunition is **being phased out now**

- **Full change by April 2029**
- Start planning your transition early

If you have any questions or need advice on suitable alternatives, please speak to the club committee.