

# Lead sheet

## The most recycled roofing product

- All lead sheet is manufactured from recycled material
- More than 95% of scrap lead sheet is collected and recycled
- Lead sheet has a lower environmental footprint than man-made alternatives



**Lead sheet, is used in the construction industry for roofing and as a radiation shield in the healthcare industry and has an impressive recycling record – all lead sheet is manufactured from recycled material, and more than 95% is collected and recycled.**

### How lead sheet is recycled

Much of the raw material used to form new lead sheet is retrieved from the building demolition process. During demolition, old lead sheet can be easily detached from adjacent materials. The collection of lead sheet is therefore a simple task of placing the material into suitable containers, typically pallets, ready for collection, while observing the necessary health and safety guidelines. Scrap lead retrieved this way can either be transported to a scrap collection point or be collected directly from the demolition site.

The supply chain involves multiple levels, with scrap merchants collecting waste lead among a number of other materials and then passing the scrap lead either to a specialist recycler who then processes it into lead ingots, or to lead sheet manufacturers who melt and refine the scrap lead to produce new lead sheet that complies with approved quality standards such as EN12588

Frequently the whole recycling process, from scrap to new lead sheet, is completed in just a matter of days.

### The uses of lead sheet

Lead sheet is widely used in the building and construction industries. It is an attractive, effective and traditional roofing material which provides long-term weatherproofing, either as sheeting or as flashing or weathering for chimney flashings, gutter and valley linings, roof apex caps and other weatherings. Lead sheet provides a completely watertight seal preventing rainwater leaks, so avoiding damp and rot in homes and all other types of buildings. Some 85% of the total lead sheet demand is for this type of application.

Lead sheet also offers effective protection against radiation for workers and patients in the medical, dental and veterinary sector. Its uses include x-ray and theatre shielding and radiation protection surrounding oncology diagnosis and treatment equipment. It is also used as a radiation shield at nuclear reactors and research facilities. Due to its ability to deaden sound waves lead sheet is also effective as soundproofing.



# Lead Sheet – the most recycled roofing product

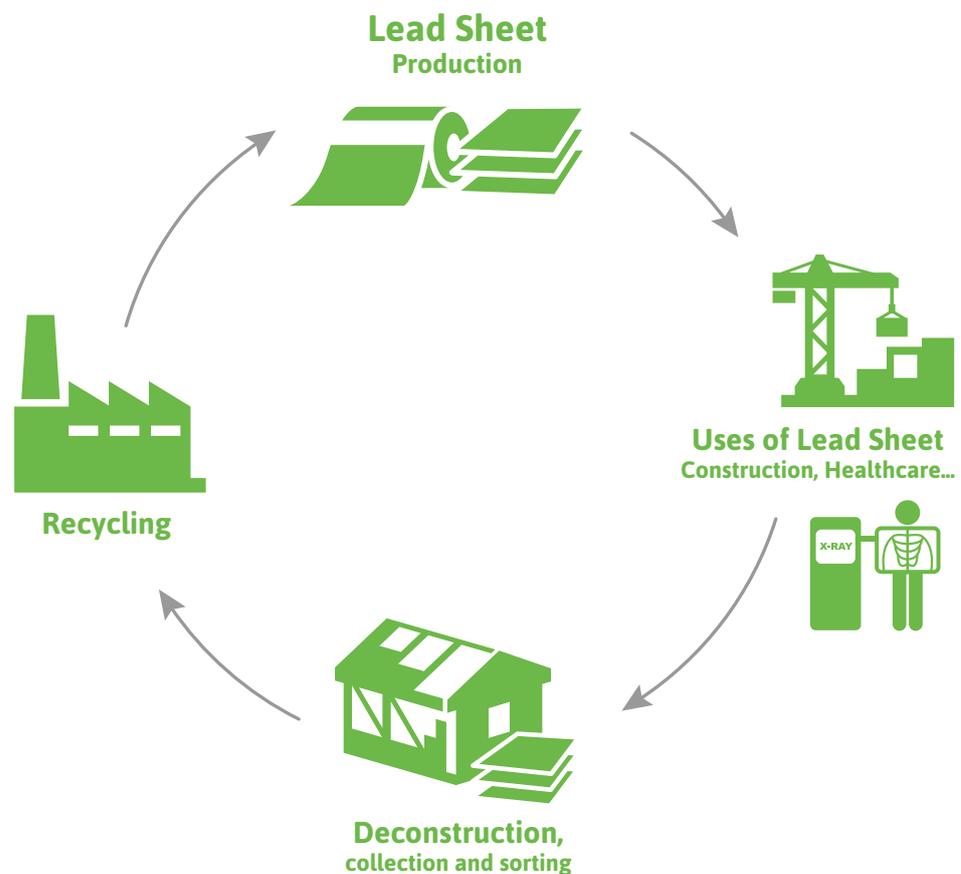
## The most recycled metal

Lead sheet has one of the highest end-of-life recycling rates in the world (95%)\* much higher than better known recycled items such as glass or newspaper - as a consequence no lead sheet goes to landfill. Lead is also the most recycled metal of all those commonly used, far greater than aluminium, copper or zinc^.

Lead sheet has a superior environmental performance compared with alternative building materials.\*

Unlike most man-made materials lead and lead sheet can be recycled indefinitely without any reduction in quality. Lead sheet is long-lasting and, coupled with the excellent recycling rate, has a significantly lower environmental footprint than man-made alternatives. The simple and energy-efficient recycling process for lead sheet also reduces carbon emissions.

\* Lead Sheet Goes Full Circle. Science supporting the facts. ELSIA 2009  
^ UNEP International Resource Panel (2011). Recycling Rates for Metals. A Status Report.



## European Lead Sheet Industry Association (ELSIA)

ELSIA is the trusted voice of the European lead sheet industry. Its members have production operations in France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Spain and the UK. ELSIA promotes the sustainability credentials of lead sheet and highlights the benefits of lead sheet. ELSIA member companies provide training for lead sheet installers and support the maintenance of high quality fitting standards. Its membership is also committed to a Code of Practice for the responsible use of lead sheet. Globally more than 100,000 tonnes of lead sheet is used each year and across the EU there is an international standard which ensures the quality and consistency of the material.

