RADIATION PROTECTION LEAD VS. LEAD-FREE PRODUCTS

RADIOLOGY IS ON THE RISE.

The number of radiologists and radiologic technicians is expected to increase by nearly ten percent in the year 2024. This means that radiology professionals and their patients need not just more protection, but better protection.

ESSENTIAL APPAREL FOR SUPERIOR PROTECTION

Protective apparel is essential to radiologists, technicians and patients who interact with X-ray testing and radiation treatment on a daily basis. Top-quality equipment, garments and protective gear that minimize exposure to radiation as much as modern technology will allow are a necessity.



The importance of **style** in radiation protection apparel and accessories doesn't come close to the critical importance of the **core protective material**. A lead-free material is the healthiest and best performing choice—and still holds the potential to change the lives of many more healthcare professionals. But lead has been the standard, trusted to provide protection despite its cumbersome weight.

WHEN PRESENTED WITH A CHOICE FOR YOUR MEDICAL PRACTICE, WHICH MATERIAL WILL YOU CHOOSE?

LEAD PRODUCTS

Traditional material products that offer reliable radiation protection but present health and environmental issues.

- » Made of hazardous material
- » More rigid and heavy, which may contribute to function and productivity

Every year, more than 150,000 lead X-ray aprons are thrown in the trash, adding in excess of 1 million pounds of toxic lead metal waste around the world.



- » Contributes to physical discomfort and fatigue with long-term wear
- » Not often recycled and can create toxic waste when disposed of
- » Bending and cracking may result in harmful lead dust

LEAD-FREE PRODUCTS

Newer products that provide greater flexibility and reduce adverse health effects of heavier materials while still offering great protection.

- » Extra flexible and lightweight, offer greater mobility and are preferred by staff
- » Made from two attenuating elements
- » Lessens physical consequences of long-term wear
- » Easy to recycle and not a potential environmental pollutant
- » Durable and cost-effective over the long term

Lead-free composite material was introduced in the 1990s and continues to grow in popularity and use.

FOUR THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE BUYING







Burdensome or inflexible protective garments can be a major drain on energy, function and productivity.



According to the Mayo Clinic, a recent study shows more than 60% of technicians and nurses report musculoskeletal pain from their professions, mostly from the heavy weight of lead material protection. Women cited this pain more, which makes sense; more so than men, they are frequently exposed to radiation and wear lead aprons.

Both types of radiation protection products will get the job done, but because of the numerous benefits that lead-free products provide—including greater shielding durability and increased staff productivity—they are steadily increasing in popularity.

Want to see for yourself why lead-free is the future of radiation protection? Contact Burlington Medical today.

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> Sources: https://www.xenolitexray.com/3-factors-consider-selecting-radiation-shielding-garments-medical-staff/ https://www.xenolitexray.com/lead-vs-lead-free-radiation-protection-products-whats-difference/