



Bismuth



Bismuth in its pure elemental form is unattractive, however, laboratory grown Bismuth is spectacular.

This natural element is chemically similar to Antimony. It is 85% as dense as lead, which is soft and brittle. Bismuth is used in the production of cosmetics, pigments, and pharmaceuticals, notably Pepto-Bismol, used to treat diarrhea. Bismuth has unusually low toxicity for a heavy metal.

When the basic ore is melted (at quite low temperatures) and allowed to cool naturally, it takes on a new and very beautiful form. The result is what is called "hopper crystals" and they display an incredible array of iridescent yellow, blue and green colours that appear to almost glow. It is



important to understand that these crystals are not molded or formed in any way. The incredible geometric shapes and colours of the crystals are the natural result of the Bismuth metal cooling from its molten state.

The fun thing about making bismuth crystals is that you can melt it down again and make it over and over again.