

OLYMPIC MEDAL COMPOSITIONS

What are the medals given out at the Rio Olympics made of? It's not quite as simple as you might think...



GOLD MEDAL



The gold used in the gold medals for the Rio Olympics is entirely free of mercury impurities.



SILVER MEDAL



The silver purity of 92.5% is a minimum IOC requirement. Around 30% of the silver used to make the medals for the Rio Olympics was obtained from recycled sources, including car parts, X-ray plates, and mirrors.



BRONZE MEDAL



Some copper used in the bronze medals came from recycled materials at the Brazilian Mint.

The compositions given in this graphic are according to the Brazilian Mint. All percentages are by weight.



© COMPOUND INTEREST 2016 - WWW.COMPOUNDCHEM.COM | @COMPOUNDCHEM
Shared under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives licence.

