

CHEMISTRY ADVENT 2017

24

THE CHEMICAL HISTORY OF TINSEL



PRE-1900

Ag

SHREDDED SILVER

POST-1900

Al

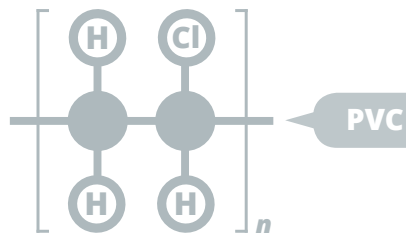
ALUMINIUM

Pb

LEAD

PRESENT

- Carbon
- (H) Hydrogen
- (Cl) Chlorine



Tinsel was originally made from strands of shredded silver when it was first invented around 1610 in Germany. Later, flammable aluminium and poisonous lead foil were both used. Modern tinsel is commonly made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC), thin strips of which are coated with a metallic finish.



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