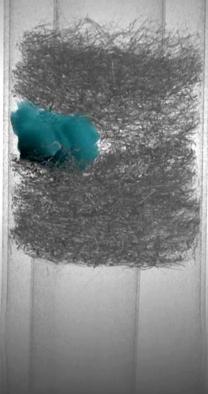
# Ion exchange processes and crystal imaging of Pb sequestration in clinoptilolite



#### Lead (*Plumbum*, Pb)







### FACT: LEAD IS TOXIC

It is harmful to everyone and DAMAGES:

BRAIN KIDNEYS

REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

#### Young children

are most vulnerable. Their nervous systems are still developing and they absorb **4-5 times more than adults**, which can cause:

intellectual disability
underperforming at school
behavioural issues

#### In adults

lead exposure increases the risk of:

LIVER

BLOOD

ischaemic heart disease
stroke

#### In pregnant

#### women

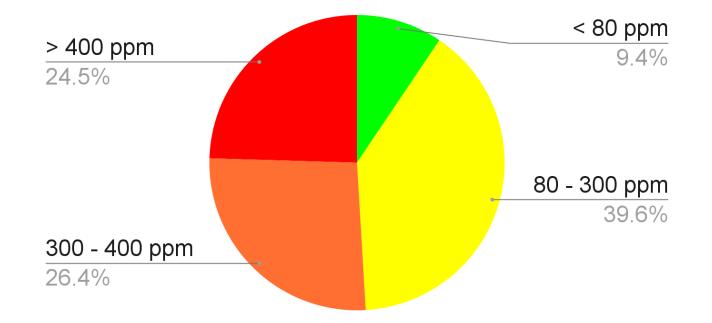
lead exposure damages many organs but also affects:

• the developing foetus

#### There is no safe level of lead exposure



### Out of 53 samples we collected in L.A.





### Sinks: Places We Call Home

"Sinks are places where pollution can be deposited. Sinks typically are land, air, or water, but racially devalued bodies can also function as *sinks*."

Laura Pulido, Geographies of race and ethnicity II: Environmental racism, racial capitalism, and state-sanctioned violence, 2016.

### ART & SCIENCE COLLIDE 09 14 2024

#### Wounded soil/ wounded communities

- Danger on children
- Cancer, respiratory illnesses
- Disconnection from soil
- Fear of soil
- Pain, distrust, anger
- Non human communities also disturbed

### Healthy soil/ healthy communities

- Soil as a source of life
- Connection with soil
- Being able to play in our backyards, grow our own food
- Empowerment of communities
- Building relationships with



Maru García LA based Artist + Researcher Pb project coordinator



Aaron Celestian Ph.D. Curator, Mineral Sciences Natural History Museum Los Angeles Pb lead scientist

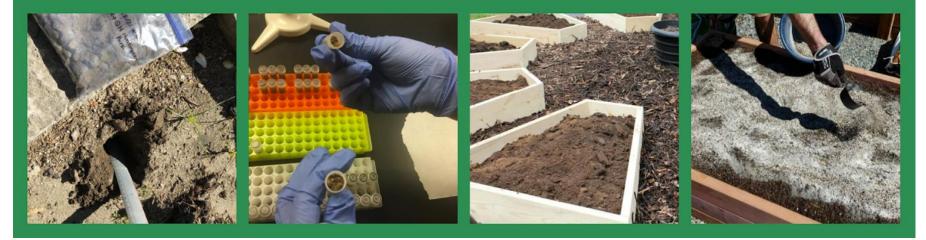


Maura Palacios Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Biology Mount San Antonio College Pb researcher





### How are we doing this?



Soil collection

eDNA testing and Lab scale Pb experiments Community education

Field testing and characterization

Apply at the soil surface:

Add water between layers

- Zeolite + mulch
- Zeolite + cardboard + compost + mulch



pH Lead Microbial diversity



### The Application



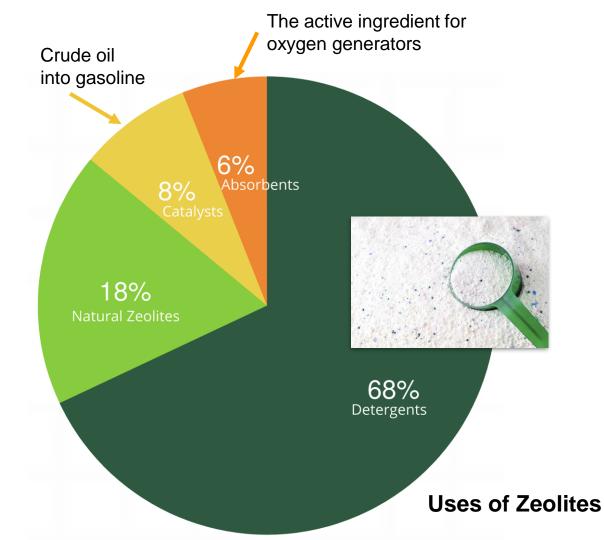
### Zeolites



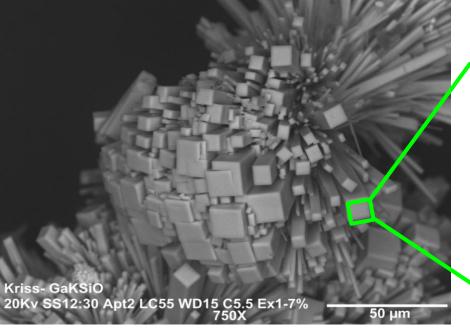
### Zeolites means 'boiling rock'





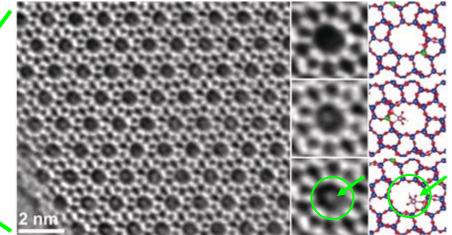


## What makes the zeolite so useful?



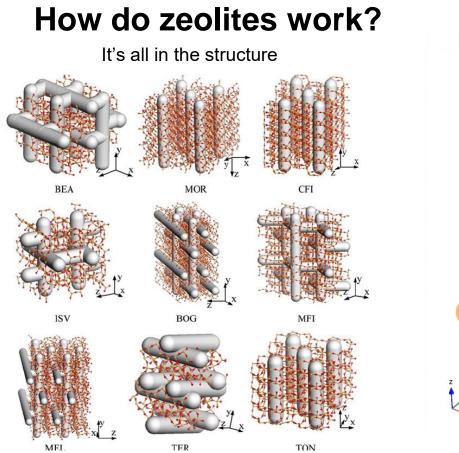
They have nano sized pores where water and metals can move in and out.

Zeolites are very good at separating things at the molecular level.



Scanning electron microscope image

Transmission electron microscope and atomic models

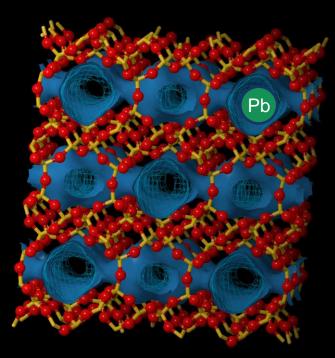


A list of some zeolite structures. Sometimes it is easier to just view the **void space (tubes)**, and ignore the atoms.

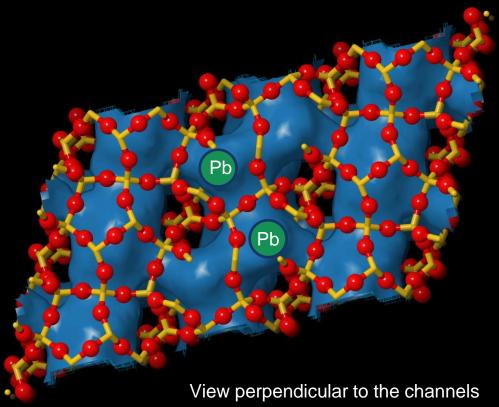
Ion Exchange 7MR

> The crystal is always **ready to absorb** atoms and molecules in such a way to **lower the energy** of the system.

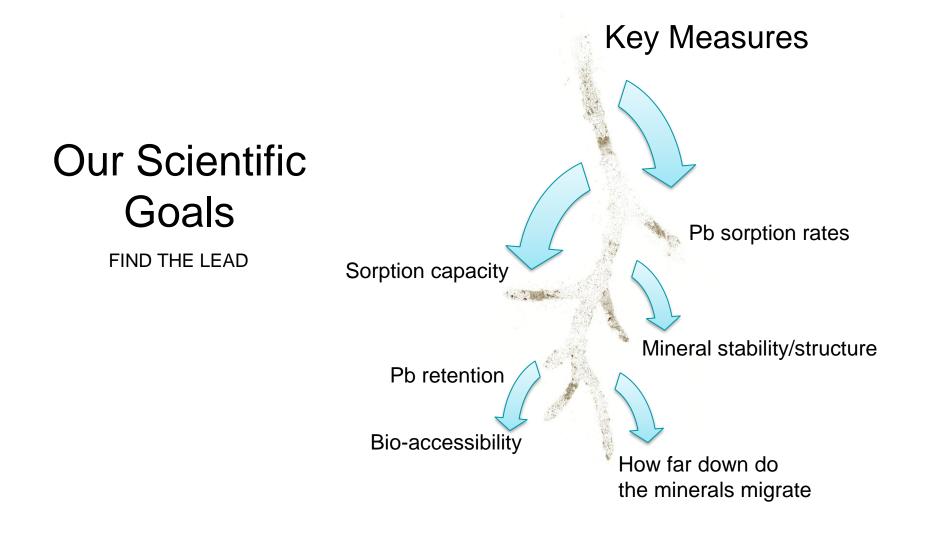
### **Clinoptilolite Tunnel Network**



View down the channels

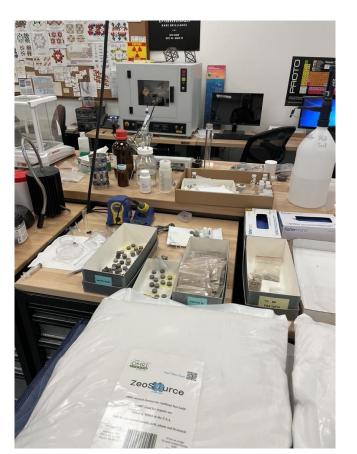


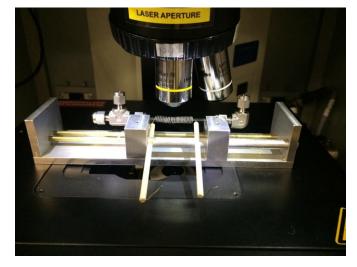
http://www.iza-structure.org/databases/





#### **Getting Large Amounts of Zeolite**

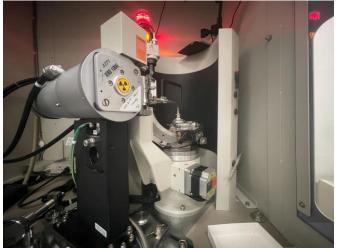




Instruments for Comparison

#### Raman

Diffraction





X-ray Fluorescence

Micro-CT

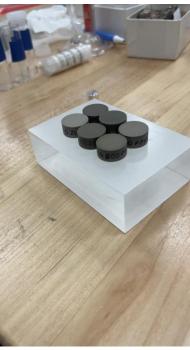


### Testing Soils For Lead Concentration

**Pressing Pellets** 

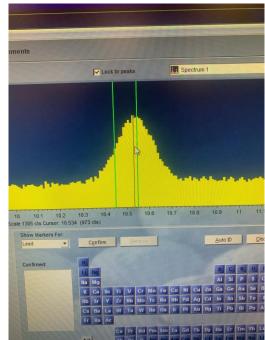


Pellets





X-ray Fluorescence Spectrum



### **Testing How Well the Zeolite Works**



PR-15

Extraction



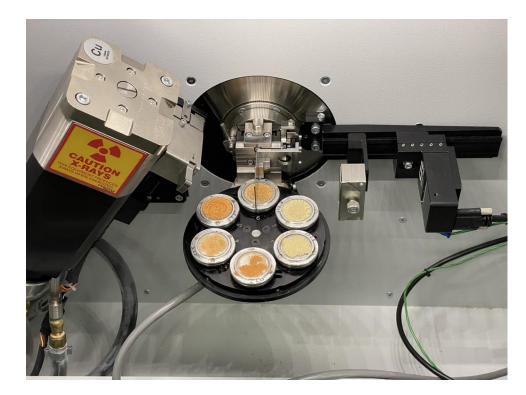
### Diffraction

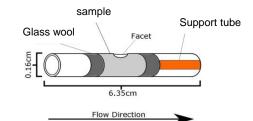
Unit cell measurement to see if Pb exchanged

Single crystal XRD for structure determination

Determine mineralogy of competing Pb phase for mineral sorption

#### X-ray Diffraction to determine soil mineral content

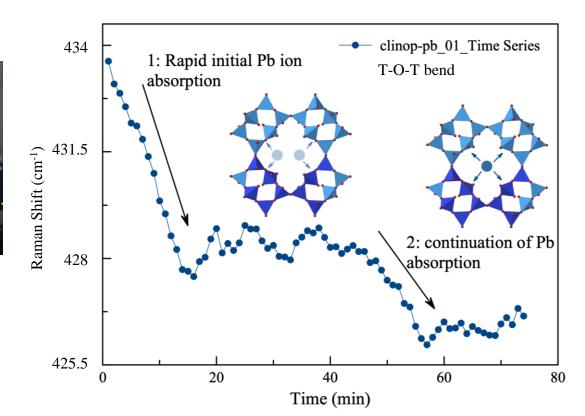




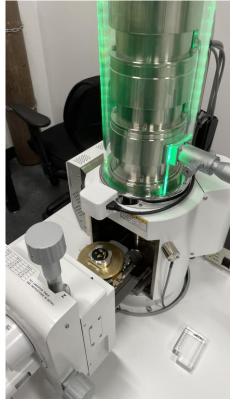
Raman Spectroscopy to determine Pb uptake properties in crystal

### **Crystal Structure Characterization**

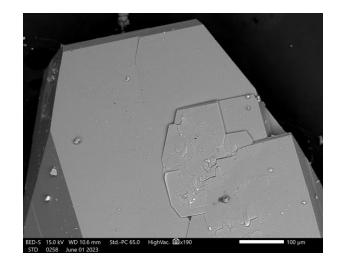
molecular dynamics for Pb sites

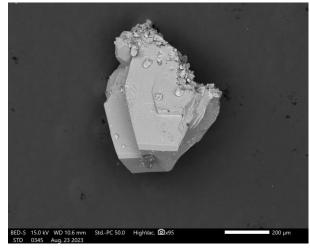


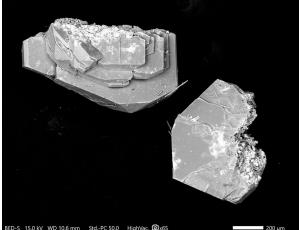
### **Scanning Electron** Imaging



SEM images of Pb exchange in clinoptilolite. The brighter the colors, the more Pb.



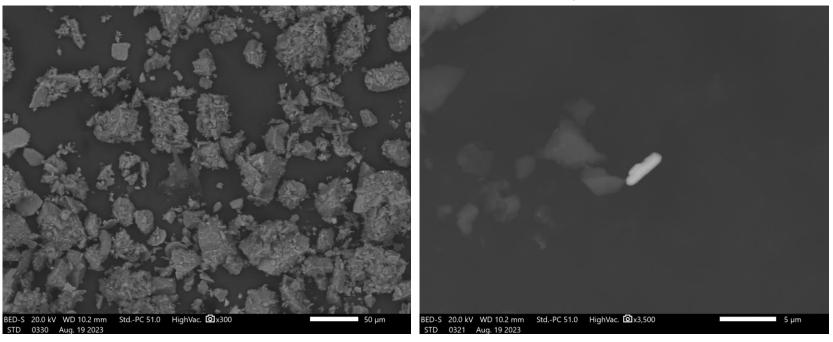




### Whole Soil SEM Analysis

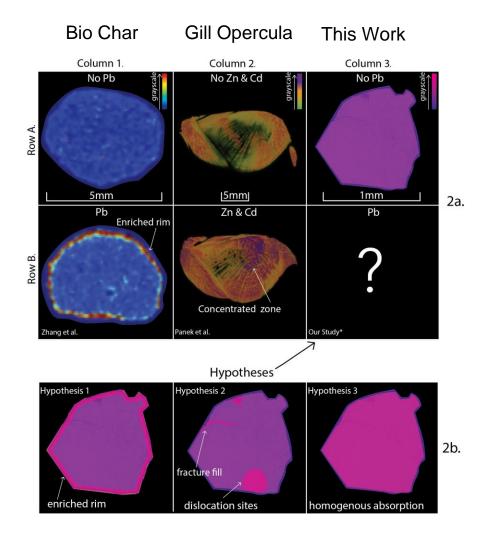
Soil, mostly clay/quartz

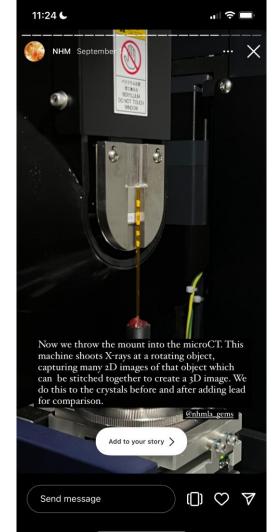
Zeolite grain found with Pb



### Where is the Pb Going?

## And how does CT help?





### 1. Load crystals into the flow cell

### 2. Find a CT scanner

### 3. Scan single crystals in column

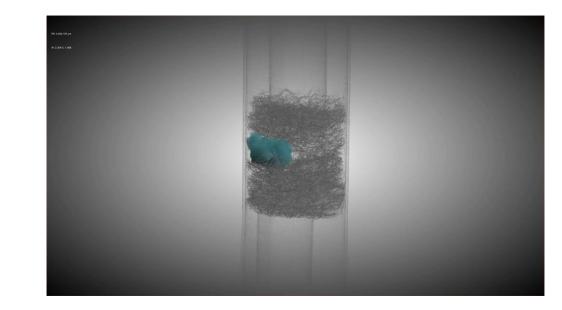
### Micro CT Experiments

#### Advantages

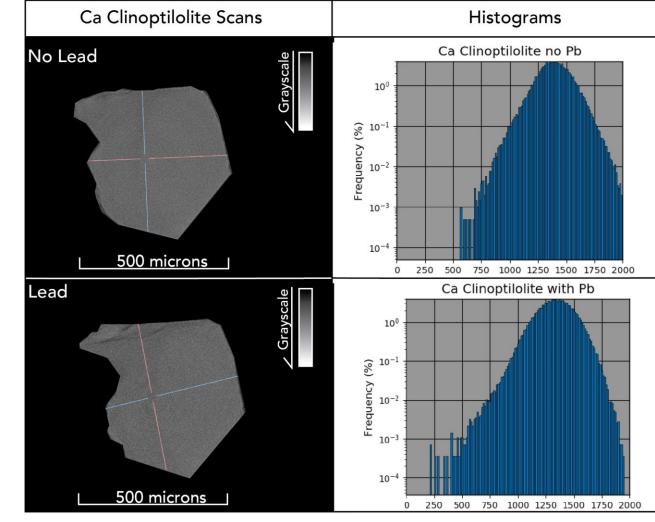
- In situ analysis
- Bulk analysis

#### Challenges

- Element contract
- Concentration measurements



### Looking for a Working Zeolite



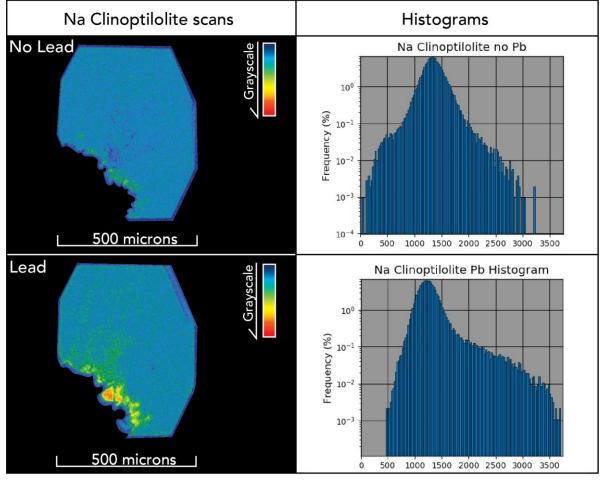
\*Notice no apparent change in Ca Clinoptilolite after Pb exchange

### Large Single Crystal Analysis

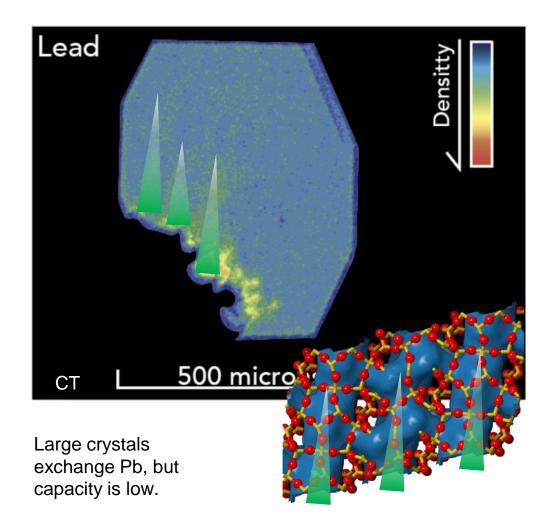
Determine density contrast

Correlate to Pb concentration

Examine Pb throughout crystal

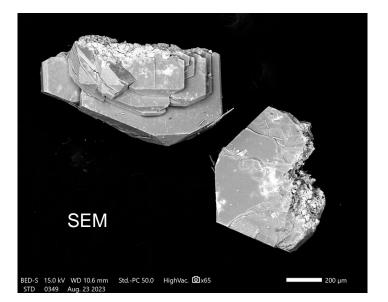


\*Notice change in Na Clinoptilolite scan and histogram after Pb exchange. Lead absorption occuring along broken edge of grain. Histogram shifts right with greater frequency of high grayscale values



Details of Single Crystal CT

Same results as we saw from SEM Single crystal XRD was not helpful



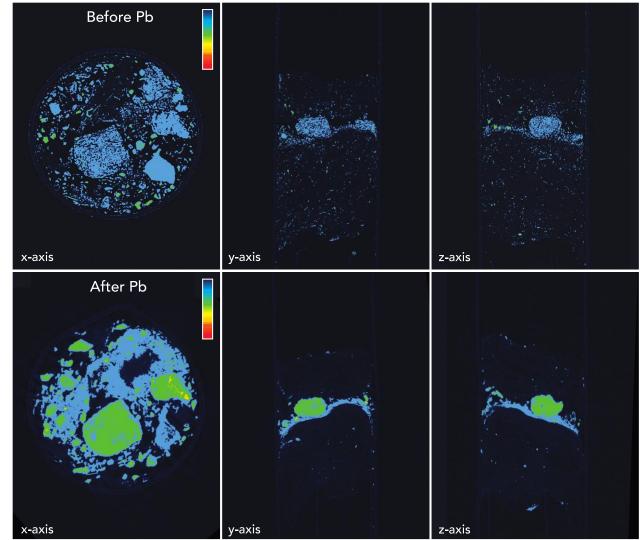
# Whole soil analysis

using < 10 micron clinoptilolite

Big difference

Significant Pb sorption

Small crystals exchange better



### Do all zeolites work?



Clinoptilolite-Na

- Crystal size dependance
- Channel geometry important
- Starting chemistry critical

After CT was calibrated, we were able to rapidly screen crystals

Why is knowing which zeolites are good for which elements?

#### About 18,800,000 results (0.34 seconds)

Sponsored :

#### A quick google search

		ZUMA Terrest					5% OFF
Zeolite Detox	Pure Body	Zeolite Liquid	Pure Body	Pure Body	Pure Synergy	Zeolite Fulvic	Zeolite Pure
Pack   Liquid	Extra - Nano…	Tonic - Heav	Gut Digestiv…	Extra - Nano	Organic…	Pack   Liquid	Full Body
\$112.00	\$79.95	\$49.95	\$38.95	\$365.00	\$60.00	\$169.00	\$52.99
Touchstone	Touchstone	Zuma Nutrition	Touchstone	Touchstone	Pure Synergy	Touchstone	Amazon.com
★★★★★(799)	★★★★★(2k+)	★★★★★(30)	★★★★★(473)	★★★★★(2k+)	★★★★★(1k+)	Gain Free by 1	\$50.34 at

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https://www.zumanutrition.com > zeolite > detox

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#### Organic Zeolite

Zeolite Pure | Full Body Detox Cleanse | Safe, Gentle, & Effective Energy Booster That Supports Gut Health, Mental Clarity, & Healthy Inflammation Response ...



#### Things to know

Uses	~
What is zeolite good for	
Contraindications	
Who should not take zeolite	
Benefits for humans	
Zeolite benefits for humans	Ť
Benefits and side effects	
Zeolite benefits and side effects	×.
More ~	
	Feedback

Feedback



## **EDUCATION - ENGAGEMENT**



### **Questions?**