

Sludge metal

Sludge metal originated through combining elements of doom metal and hardcore punk. It is typically harsh and abrasive, often featuring shouted or screamed vocals, heavily distorted instruments and sharply contrasting tempos. The Melvins from Washington state produced the first sludge metal albums in the late 1980s, and were also influential in the grunge scene. Later bands often bordered on stoner rock (e.g. High on Fire) or post-metal (e.g. Neurosis).

The guitar and bass are down-tuned and heavily distorted and are often played with large amounts of feedback to produce a thick yet abrasive sound. Guitar solos are often absent. Drumming is often performed in typical doom metal fashion. Drummers may employ hardcore d-beat or double-bass drumming during faster passages or through the thick breakdowns (which are characteristic of the sludge sound). Suffering, drug abuse, politics, and anger towards society are common lyrical themes. Due to the similarities between sludge and stoner rock, there is often a crossover between the two genres, but sludge metal generally avoids stoner rock's usage of psychedelia.