

LEAD IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Some consumer items that are antique, imported, or brought into the United States by travelers have been found to contain lead. The consumption of lead, from paint, food products, or metal that are in these products may lead to lead poisoning and should be avoided.

Spices

Some spices brought into or sent from other countries can contain lead, including curry powder, cumin, cinnamon, coriander, turmeric, masala, and chili powder. For a full list, please check with your state or county health department. You may also check with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (cpsc.gov) for product recalls.

Lead can contaminate spices in many ways, from the soil it was planted in, to the facility where it was processed, where old equipment or piping with lead in it could contaminate the spices. The way the spices were stored, or the intentional addition of lead for weight or color may also lead to lead contamination. Spices from open markets or without labels were found to have the highest rates of lead. For more information, use the QR code to visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website on lead.



Children's Toys and Jewelry

Lead has been found in children's toys and jewelry, both in paint and metal components. Parents and caretakers should check with the CPSC for recalls on children's toys and jewelry. Care should be taken with antique or salvaged toys and jewelry that are painted as these items may contain lead.

Pottery

Lead has been found in glazed ceramic, pottery and other dishware made outside of the United States, as well as in antiques or salvaged items. Pottery and ceramics with lead may contaminate food served or stored in them. Be careful of antiques and imported goods, especially those with peeling or damaged paint.

Medicines, Cosmetics, and Ceremonial Powders

Some medicines, home remedies, and cosmetics brought in from other countries have been found to contain lead. Here are the most common:

- Sindoor
- Greta and Azarcon (also known as Maria Luisa, Rueda, Alarcon, and Coral)
- Daw Tway
- Ghasard
- Ba-baw-san
- Kohl
- Kajal

For a full list, please check with your state or county health department. Unsure how to contact your health department? Scan the QR code.



Metal Jewelry

Antiques, costume jewelry, inexpensive amulets, and children's jewelry sold in vending machines have been found to contain lead. Care should be taken with these items, especially around children, as the consumption of lead can result in lead poisoning and severe health outcomes for children.