Some face creams can poison children

Mercury is a poison. You can spread it from your hands all over your home. It gets into people's bodies. It is especially bad for children and pregnant women.

"My cousin's daughter was sick. At the doctor, tests showed her mercury level was high. My cousin was using an Asian face cream to lighten her own skin. She didn't know it had mercury in it. Because she carried her daughter a lot, her baby was poisoned." – Khataraya K.

The creams shown on the next page have mercury in them.

Do not use:

- The creams on the next page
- Any face cream from outside the U.S. that says it is used for "whitening" or "lightening" or to get rid of wrinkles, age spots, freckles, acne, or other blemishes
- Any cream on the CDPH Face Creams Containing Mercury web page
- Any face cream purchased from the internet, an individual, a flea market or swap meet, or a specialty store selling products from Asia, since someone could have added mercury before selling them in these places. Only buy face creams from well-known, chain stores like Walgreens or Target
- Creams in containers without labels or with homemade labels
- Creams with labels only in Khmer, Thai, or other Asian languages, and with no English.

If you use creams like the ones shown on the next page:

 STOP using the creams

 VISIT your doctor and bring this leaflet

 Get a blood and urine TEST for mercury

For free medical advice, call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222.

If you have a cream shown on the next page, put it in a sealed bag and contact (510) 981-4354 or AskEHIB@cdph.ca.gov

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Beware! Do Not Use!
These Creams Have Mercury in Them

These creams were found on the internet, or purchased from an individual, a flea market or swap meet, or a specialty store selling products from Asia. Only buy face creams from well-known, chain stores.

Creams with Mercury—Beauty Creams from Other Countries

Creams with Mercury—No Label or Homemade Label

CDPH