

WARNING: Dangerous Skin-lightening Creams Found in SF Bay Area Stores

Mercury is a toxic chemical. It has been found in face creams used to lighten or bleach skin, treat acne, and fade age spots, blemishes, or freckles. To find out if dangerous products are sold in California, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) tested over 100 imported skin-lightening creams and other products for mercury. Most of the items were purchased at ethnic markets in San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose. A few products were purchased online.

Creams that contain mercury can be dangerous for anyone living in the home where they are used. The mercury spreads from the hands of anyone using the cream to other things they touch. Mercury then gets into the air and anyone in the home can breathe it in.

Common signs of mercury poisoning

- Irritability, bad moods, or depression
- Nervousness or shyness
- Memory problems or difficulty concentrating
- Feeling very tired
- Tremors, shaking, or weakness
- Tingling or numbness in hands, feet, or around the mouth

The symptoms listed above can have many causes. If you have any of these symptoms and think they are from using an imported skin-lightening cream, see your doctor or health clinic. You can also call the **California Poison Control System** toll free at 1-800-222-1222 or the **Cosmetics Hotline** at 1-877-325-3223.

Choosing a safer skin-lightening cream

Products sold legally in the USA **must** have all information written in English.

- Products can have information in other languages as long as all the information is also in English.
- The ingredients must be listed.
- Never use any product that does not have a label.
- Don't use products that list mercury, mercurio, mercurous chloride, or calomel in the ingredients.



For more information, go to the CDPH web page on mercury in skin creams:
www.ehib.org/paper.jsp?paper_key=MSKC

DO NOT USE



Monsepa Bleaching Express Peeling



Jiaoli 10 Day Whitening Speckles Removed Cream



Jiaoli 7 Day Specific Eliminating Freckle AB Set



Jiaoli Miraculous Cream