

# 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 neighbor was using a Mexican face cream to remove dark spots. She didn't know it had mercury in it. Because she held her son a lot, he was poisoned. He spent two weeks in the hospital.” – Maria R.

## 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 other countries, 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

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](mailto:AskEHIB@cdph.ca.gov)

# 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 International products. Only buy face creams from well-known, chain stores.

### Well-Known Creams



**Safer Alternative:** Below is an example of a Pond's Rejuveness cream that **does not** have mercury in it. It was purchased from Walgreens in California. The label is in English and Spanish. It had a safety seal when it was purchased.



**Sold Without a Safety Seal:** When sold by an individual, online, or at a swap meet, someone may have opened the cream and added mercury before reselling.

### Creams from Other Countries



### Creams with Mercury – No Label or Homemade Label

