

Consumer Alert California Department of Public Health

CA Woman Poisoned by Roommate's Face Cream

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) urges consumers to stop using Rosabell Crema, which is a face cream made in Mexico. Laboratory testing confirms it contains mercury and its most dangerous form, methylmercury. Mercury exposure can cause serious health problems.

A California woman was poisoned after she was exposed to mercury vapors in the air from a Rosabell Crema. She suffered from body aches, confusion, loss of sleep, and other health issues. She did not use the face cream herself. A person she shared a bedroom with used Rosabell Crema, and she was also poisoned. Mercury was not a listed ingredient on the label.



Rosabell Crema

More than 70 people have been poisoned in California from mercury in skin creams in the last decade. Family members and children have been harmed even when they themselves have not used these creams. Pregnant people, women of reproductive age, and children are especially at risk of mercury poisoning.

Creams that contain mercury are imported and are advertised to **remove blemishes**, **smooth wrinkles**, **and cleanse**, **moisturize**, **lighten**, **or brighten skin**. CDPH has tested and found mercury in imported face creams, face creams sold through individuals at swap meets or on Facebook Marketplace, homemade face creams, and face creams tainted by a seller after purchase and then resold.

If you are using an imported face cream, please:

- Stop using the skin cream immediately
- Put the cream in a sealed, plastic bag and dispose of as household hazardous waste (Visit the <u>CalRecycle website</u> to see where your County's hazardous waste site is located.)
- Visit your doctor and bring this alert
- Call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222 for free medical advice

CDPH has also found mercury in the face creams pictured below.



If you or someone you know uses any of the face creams that are described within this consumer alert, please stop using the cream and contact the Mercury Line at (510) 334-8567 or email <u>AskEHIB@cdph.ca.gov</u>.

For more information, visit <u>CDPH's Mercury in Skin Cream web page (http://bit.ly/MercuryinCream)</u> to learn about other creams that contain mercury and for educational materials in English and Spanish.