

FDA Recalls 2 More Metlox Pottery Lines

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The Food and Drug Administration has recalled as hazardous two more lines of earthenware manufactured by a California company.

Samples tested by FDA were found to contain leachable lead in excess of federal tolerances. When certain acidic foods or juices are stored in such vessels the lead may be drawn off and consumed with the food, causing lead poisoning.

Lead is used in the glazing process. The FDA permits no more than 7 parts per million (ppm) of lead in such a product. In the two new lines tested FDA found 11.4 to 23.2 ppm and 5.3 to 39 ppm.

More than 3.6 million pieces of the two lines have been placed on the market. But how much remains is unknown.

The lines were manufactured by Metlox Pottery, Manhattan Beach, Calif. FDA identified them this way:

— Vernonware brand dinnerware with petal burst pattern No. 620, salad plates and dinner plates only. The product was distributed as part of 45-piece sets or as individual pieces sold from open stock.

The pieces are decorated on the face in a petal-burst design with alternating petals of rust, olive green and brown on an amber-gold background. The rim of each piece is brown and the bottom of the plates is marked "Vernonware by Metlox Made in California." Dinner plates also are labeled "petalburst."

Poppytrail Brand

— Poppytrail brand dinnerware, mission verde pattern No. 580. The line was distributed in 45-piece sets or sold individually from open stock. Pieces have a grey-white background decorated with a lacy design and trimmed around the rim in avocado green.

The flatware only — plates, saucers and bowls — are labeled on the bottom "Poppytrail by Metlox Made in California." Dinner plates are also labeled "mission verde" and cups, mugs and pitchers are not labeled.

No deaths or injuries have been attributed to either line of earthenware, the FDA said. The recall is on a voluntary basis by the company.

Last month a 17-month-old Montgomery County boy died in Montgomery Hospital of lead poisoning. For several weeks he had been fed a grape drink kept in an earthenware pitcher manufactured by Metlox. The company subsequently recalled its entire Tempo line.

FDA Warns About Hazards Of Dinnerware

MAY 6 1971

The Food and Drug Administration warned consumers Wednesday about the hazards of owning a brand of imported dinnerware that has been sold in Food Fair and Pantry Pride Stores in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

The dinnerware, Royal Blue Ironstone-England, is suspected of being contaminated with a high level of lead content. The cups, coffee and teapot mugs have a blue floral pattern.

FDA said the lead amounts bleached from samples of the dinnerware range from 18 parts per million to as high as 196 parts per million. The FDA lead guidelines for pottery is seven parts per million.

An FDA spokesman said the pottery investigation began after a child in Baltimore became ill, apparently from eating a fruit preparation stored in a blue ironstone bowl. The Maryland State Department of Health reported that the child suffered from acute lead poisoning.

FDA said more than 300,000 pieces of the dinnerware were sold between September and December, 1970.

FDA said Food Fair has agreed to refund the money to consumers who return the dinnerware to the store in which it was purchased.

The dinnerware was imported from England by the Sey Mart Import Co. of New York.

MAY 13 1971 Sears Recalls Pottery With Lead Hazard

Washington—(UPI) — Sears Roebuck & Co. has recalled its "Evening Shadow" dinnerware because of hazardous lead contamination, according to the Food and Drug Administration.

"Evening Shadow," imported from Japan, is offered both in the Sears' catalogue and retail stores, a company spokesman said. He said stocks had been removed from store shelves and customers could return the pottery for a refund.

The FDA said yesterday the pottery contained 12.5 parts per million to 46 parts per million lead. The federal safety limit is seven parts per million.

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