

August 16, 1972

Mrs. L. A. Popescu
900 Buntz Road
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Dear Mrs. Popescu:

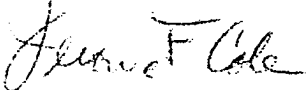
LH-86 Lead Glazes for Dinnerware

Thank you for your letter of June 9 regarding the possibility of toxic substances being released from your ceramic coffee mugs. I can not answer your question regarding the composition of the coffee-colored residue but I suspect that this material is related to the coffee in the mugs and possibly to the detergent being used in your dishwasher rather than through the release of substances from the mug itself. Lead or cadmium release from ceramic glazes is colorless and would be in such small quantities even when hazardous, that you could not see it.

Enclosed is a copy of our booklet "Facts about Lead Glazes for Art Potters and Hobbyists". In this booklet, several laboratories are listed which can perform a lead release test for you. Without knowing the results of such a test, it would be impossible for me to speculate on the effects of using these mugs over several years.

However, since the majority of ceramic ware is unquestionably safe, I would doubt that your husband is in any danger at all. If you are concerned about lead poisoning, I suggest that your husband see a physician and that a blood lead test be run on him.

Sincerely,



J. F. Cole, Sc.D.
Director, Environmental Health

JFC:ec

Enc.

LIA-76928