

100,000 Soup Bowls Called Hazard

By BETTY JAMES
Star Staff Writer

Decorated alphabet soup bowls distributed nationwide recently during a sales promotion campaign of the Campbell Soup Co. have traces of cadmium and lead deposits, a Chicago health official says.

Dr. Murray C. Brown, Chicago health commissioner, advised owners to destroy the bowls and ordered an immediate recall by the manufacturer, the Americana Art China Co. of Sebring, Ohio, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. He especially warned consumers not to store food in the bowls.

The Chicago Board of Health estimated that 4,000 bowls were bought by consumers in

Chicago and that about 100,000 had been sold nationally.

The number of consumers in the Washington area who sent for the bowl has not been determined. No spokesman for the manufacturer was available for comment yesterday. The promotion campaign ended Sept. 1.

Brown also notified the soup company and The Food and Drug Administration.

A Campbell spokesman said company tests indicate no health hazard when the bowls are used to serve soup, and referred a reporter to the china company for any information on a possible recall.

An FDA spokesman said FDA is testing the bowls.

Brown said, "I do not feel that any person eating food from the bowls for the length of time they've been on

the market would suffer any harm. It takes a long time and persistent usage and relatively high concentrations of the metals in food for any cadmium or lead poisoning to infiltrate the body and damage human tissue."

However, Brown warned, using the bowls for storage of acid-producing foods for 24 hours or more might result in the release of lead and cad-

mium salts in a quantity that may prove harmful. As examples of such food, he cited tomato or onion soup or salad dressing containing vinegar.

The off-white bowls are six inches in diameter and are decorated on the inside with decals of the alphabet in yellow, a child's name in black, and a picture of a child wearing a crown with the letter "C" in the crown.

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Firm Tells Buyers To Destroy Bowls

By BETTY JAMES
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The Food and Drug Administration says the manufacturer of decorated alphabet soup bowls distributed nationwide during a recent sales promotion of the Campbell Soup Co. is writing to recipients of the bowls, asking that the bowls be destroyed and giving customers their money back.

An FDA spokesman said yesterday Campbell informed FDA of the action by the Americana Art China Co. of Sebring, Ohio.

Dr. Murray C. Brown, Chicago health commissioner, said

earlier this week that the bowls have traces of cadmium and lead deposits and advised owners to destroy them. He specifically warned against storing food in the bowls.

The Chicago Board of Health estimates that about 100,000 bowls were sold nationally. They were purchased through the mail for two Campbell labels and 75 cents apiece.

"Lead, cadmium and other heavy metals occur widely in the environment," FDA said. "Small amounts of these metals are taken into the body over a lifetime without any known hazardous effects. Any problem results from increased exposure over a period