

Folk Remedies and Cosmetics

Many non-Western folk remedies (herbal medicines) and cosmetics contain lead. Medicines used to treat diarrhea or gastrointestinal symptoms, menstrual cramping, and other ailments, as well as cosmetics have been found to have large amounts of lead in them. Also, these products might contain other heavy metals such as arsenic and mercury. Many of these folk medicines and cosmetics are imported into the United States.

The following list of folk remedies and cosmetics has been found to contain lead.

NAME	REGION OF ORIGIN	MEDICINAL USE
Albayalde or albayaidle	Mexico and Central America	Empacho (vomiting, colic), apathy and lethargy
Alarcon, azarcon Coral, luiga, maria luisa, rueda (bright orange powder)	Mexico	Empacho (see above)
Alkohol	Middle East	Topical medical preparation; applied to umbilical stump
Al Murrah	Saudi Arabia	Colic, stomach aches, diarrhea
Anzroot	Middle East	Gastroenteritis
Ba Bow Sen	China	Hyperactivity and nightmares in children
Bali goli	Asia/India	Stomach ache
Bint al dahab, bint or bent dahab	Oman, Saudi Arabia, India	Diarrhea, colic, constipation, and general neonatal use
Bokhoor (and noqd)	Saudi Arabia	Wood and lead sulfide burned on charcoal to product pleasant fumes and calm infants
Cebagin	Middle East	Teething powder
Chuifong tokuwan	Asia	Pharmaceutical drug
Cordyceps	China	Herbal medicine treatment for hypertension, diabetes, bleeding
Deshi Dewa	Asia, India	Fertility pill
Farouk	Saudi Arabia	Teething powder
Ghasard (brown powder)	India	Given as tonic
Greta (yellow powder)	Mexico	Empacho
Hai Ge Fen	China	Clamshell powder used in Chinese herbal medicines
Henna	Middle East	Hair and skin dye
Herbal medicines (eg Poying Tan)	China	General
Kandu (red powder)	Asia/India	Stomach ache
Kohl, surma or Saoot	Africa, Asia, India, Pakistan, Middle East	Cosmetic; astringent for eye injuries and umbilical stump, teething powder
Kushta	India/Pakistan	Diseases of the heart, brain, liver, and stomach. Aphrodisiac tonic
Pay-loo-ah	Loas (Hmong)	High fever, rash
"Santrinj"	Saudi Arabia	Teething powder
Unknown (Ayurvedic)	India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Burma, Bhutan, Mongolia, Tibet	Metal-mineral tonic, slows development

This table was made available through the Florida Department of Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, *Screening Guidelines*, March, 2001.