

# Beware of Lead

## Ceremonial Products and Cosmetics

Certain imported cosmetics, baby powder, powder deodorants, and ceremonial powders can contain lead. These products come in a variety of colors and lead can be used to darken or brighten cosmetics.



## Lead and Your Health

Lead poisoning is extremely dangerous for adults and children. After lead gets in the body, it can cause lifelong brain damage, permanent injuries, and disabilities. There is no safe level of lead. Many people with lead poisoning don't feel sick. A blood lead test is the only way to know if you have high levels of lead.

## Make Informed Choices

Your religion, traditions, and culture are important. Avoid daily use of products that may contain lead. Use religious and ceremonial powders only during special occasions to reduce your risk of lead poisoning.



## Products with Lead

- Eye cosmetics (kohl, kajal, al-Kahal, surma, tiro, tozali, and kwalli)
- Religious and ceremonial powders (sindoor, Kkumkum, Ttkka, and holi colors)
- Hair dye that contains lead acetate
- Henna
- Baby powder and hygiene deodorant powders from Asia and Latin America (litargirio, hongdan, and huangdan)



## When Using or Buying

- Look for products that are labeled **lead-free**.
- Avoid unpackaged and unlabeled products.
- Avoid using red, orange, tan, or yellow powders from Asia and Latin America. They could be mixed with lead powder. Consider using solid deodorants.
- Carefully apply powders and makeup on the area. Try to avoid getting products in your eyes, nose, and mouth. Using too much can create lead dust in the air.
- Wash hands with warm water and soap after use.
- If you use products that can contain lead, talk to your health care provider about a blood lead test.



## Learn More

[health.ny.gov/leadsources](https://health.ny.gov/leadsources)

