

Beware of Lead

**Jewelry, Religious Items,
and Souvenirs**



Certain jewelry, religious items, toys, and souvenirs made in other countries can contain lead. Learn how to reduce your risk of lead poisoning from these products.

Lead and 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 test is the only way to know if you have high levels of lead.



Make Informed Choices

Your religion, traditions, and culture are important. Use items only during special occasions. Daily use of products that contain lead increase your risk of lead poisoning.



Products with Lead

Jewelry

- Metal necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and charms
- Brightly colored or painted bobby pins, hair clips, earrings, and bracelets
- Plastic headbands and beaded necklaces
- Rhinestone and crystal jewelry
- Antique and handmade metal jewelry

Religious items and figurines

- Metal amulets and talismans (sheesha, tabiz, ta'wiz, muska, and ta'wīdh), cross pendants, and figurines made with pewter, brass, and tin.

Toys and souvenirs

- Brightly colored plastic and painted toys and souvenirs made in other countries, such as maracas, pottery, and decorative painted items.



When Using or Buying

Lead is often used in metal, painted, and plastic products to make them brighter, heavier, and stronger.

- Look for products that are labeled **lead-free**.
- Avoid buying unpackaged or unlabeled products.
- Buy products made in the United States. Avoid costume jewelry made in China, India, and Mexico.
- If you have important items that may contain lead, use them only during special occasions to reduce your risk of lead poisoning.
- Keep items away from your eyes, nose, and mouth. Keep costume jewelry away from children.
- Choose age-appropriate toys and jewelry made in the United States for children. Check cpsc.gov for unsafe jewelry and toys.
- Wash hands with soap and water after using items.
- 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

