

Mercury in Skin Creams



Certain skin creams bought in Mexico may contain mercury. **Mercury is dangerous and may cause health problems.**

Mercury is added to these creams by third parties, not the commercial manufacturer, and promoted for skin lightening, and fading wrinkles, freckles, and age spots.

Common Symptoms of Mercury Poisoning

- Shaking or tremors
- High blood pressure
- Weight loss, tiredness, or muscle weakness in arms and legs
- Mood changes, anxiety, insomnia, or depression
- Memory loss, headaches, or difficulty concentrating
- Tingling or numbness in hands, feet, or lips

Recommendations

- Do **NOT** use skin creams purchased in Mexico that are:
 - Handmade
 - Unlabeled
 - Unsealed when purchased
 - Purchased from somewhere other than a major retail store
- If you are using a skin cream that meets the above description, stop using it immediately.
 - Put the cream in a sealed, labeled plastic bag.
 - Then discard at the nearest hazardous waste facility.
 - Find the closest household hazardous waste facility near you at tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/assistance/hhw/hhw_contacts.pdf
- If you or your family experience the symptoms of mercury poisoning, seek medical treatment immediately. Ask your medical provider to test for mercury poisoning.
- For free advice, contact the Texas Poison Center Network, toll-free at 800-222-1222.

Contact Information

Texas Poison Center
Network
Toll-free 800-222-1222

Environmental
Surveillance and
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888-681-0927
epitox@dshs.texas.gov

dshs.texas.gov/environmental-surveillance-toxicology



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