

## Banned mercury still widely used in skin creams

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Online news:

Disturbingly, research by consumer groups has found that up to 20% of whitening creams studied are highly contaminated with mercury.

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Some of the whitening products sold in Thailand that have been found to be contaminated with mercury. APICHT JINAKUL.

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### Banned mercury still widely used in skin creams

**Judging** from local TV advertising, whitening creams must be one of Thailand's most **sought-after** products.

It is a highly **competitive** business and the **cosmetic** companies that sell the creams are **constantly** looking for new **substances** to make the skin look whiter and fresher.

They all should know, however, that one whitening substance to **avoid** is mercury. It works – **blocking** the production of skin-colouring **melanin** – but it also has **nasty side effects**. The **prolonged** use of products containing mercury can lead to **inflammation** of the **liver, kidneys** and **urinary tract**.

**Disturbingly**, **research** by consumer groups has found that up to 20% of whitening creams studied are highly contaminated with mercury.

The **Foundation For Consumers** and the **Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand** (Earth) yesterday released findings of the study after conducting experiments on 47 different kinds of whitening creams sold across the country.

Jutamas Suppradid, a researcher at Earth, said the product with the highest amount of mercury contained 99,070 parts per million of mercury, despite the fact that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) bans the use of the **toxic** substance in cosmetics.

Some of the products found contaminated were FC Rice Milk Cream, White Rose Sheep Placenta Cream, Best Beauty Pearl Cream and Baby Face Cream. **Manufacturers** have been told to **remove** them from the market.

*Adapted from a story in today's Bangkok Post*

**contaminated** – made dirty, polluted or poisonous by the addition of a chemical, waste or infection ปนเปื้อน

**mercury** – a chemical element. Mercury is a poisonous silver liquid metal, used in thermometers สารปรอท

**banned** – officially not allowed ถูกห้าม

**judge** – to form an opinion about somebody/something, based on the information you have คัดคะแนน

**local** – in or related to the area that you live, or to the particular area that you are talking about ท้องถิ่น

**advertising** – telling the public about a product or a service, political candidate, etc. in order to encourage people to buy, use or support it การโฆษณา

**sought-after** – wanted; having a high demand เป็นที่ต้องการ

**competitive** – having a high level of close competition แข่งขันสูง

**cosmetic** – involving substances, treatments, etc. that which are intended to improve the appearance of your face or body ซึ่งทำให้สวยงาม

**constantly** – continuously; all the time อย่างต่อเนื่อง

**substance** – a particular type of liquid, solid, or gas สาร

**avoid** – to stay away from; to not use หลีกเลียง

**block** – to stop someone/ something from moving through or along something else ปิดกั้น, กีดขวาง

**melanin** – a dark substance in the skin, eyes, and hair that gives them their colour เม็ดสีดำน้ำตาลในผิวหนัง ผมหงอก

**nasty** – bad or very unpleasant อื่นตราด, น่ารังเกียจ

**side effect** – an unpleasant effect of a drug that happens in addition to the main effect ผลข้างเคียง

**prolonged** – continuing for a long time ยืดเวลาออกไป

**inflammation** – a red, painful and often swollen area in or on a part of your body การอักเสบ

**liver** – a large organ in the body that cleans the blood and produces bile ตับ

**kidney** – one of the two organs in your body that clean your blood and remove waste ไต

**urinary tract** – the organ system that produces, stores, and eliminates urine, liquid waste, from the body

**disturbing** – making you feel extremely worried or upset ที่ชวนเคืองใจ

**research** – a careful study of a subject, especially in order to discover new facts or information about it การวิจัย

**consumer** – someone who buys and uses goods and services ผู้บริโภค

**foundation** – an organisation that provides money for things such as medical research or for a charity มูลนิธิ

**ecological** – of the system of relationships between the air, land, water, animals, plants, etc., usually of a particular area เกี่ยวกับความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างสิ่งมีชีวิตในระบบนิเวศน์

**alert** – a warning to people to be prepared to deal with something dangerous การเตือนให้ระวัง

**recovery** – the process of becoming normal and healthy again การฟื้นฟู

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