

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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FDA Alert Concerning Certain Cinnamon Products Due to Presence of Elevated Levels of Lead

DATE:	03/11/2024
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Debra L. Bogen, MD, FAAP, Acting Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	FDA Alert Concerning Certain Cinnamon Products Due to Presence of Elevated Levels of Lead
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	Statewide
STREET ADDRESS:	n/a
COUNTY:	n/a
MUNICIPALITY:	n/a
ZIP CODE:	n/a

This transmission is a “Health Advisory,” and provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL EMS COUNCILS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; FQHCs: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Summary:

- Following the [October 2023 recall](#) of cinnamon apple puree and applesauce products due to elevated lead levels linked to the cinnamon in those products and the concern for lead toxicity in children, the FDA initiated a targeted survey of ground cinnamon products from discount retail stores and analyzed the samples for lead and chromium.
- Through this product testing, the [U.S. Food & Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) has determined that the ground cinnamon products listed below contain elevated lead levels and that prolonged exposure to these products may be unsafe.
 - La Fiesta brand, lot 25033, sold at La Superior and SuperMercados.
 - Marcum brand, best by 10/16/25 and 04/06/25, sold at Save A Lot.
 - MK brand sold at SF Supermarket.
 - Swad brand, lot KX21223, sold at Patel Brothers.
 - El Chilar brand, lots F275EX1026 and D300EX1024, sold at La Joya Morelense in Baltimore, MD.
 - Supreme Tradition brand, best buy dates 04/17/25, 04/12/25, 04/21/25, 08/24/25, 09/29/25, 09/22/25, and 12/19/25, sold at Dollar Tree and Family Dollar stores.
- The FDA is advising consumers to stop using and throw away these products. The FDA has recommended that the firms voluntarily recall these products and consumers are advised to not buy these products.
- These products have a long shelf life. Consumers should check their homes and discard these products.
- Consider testing children for lead exposure from these and other sources.
- For more information on childhood lead exposure in Pennsylvania, visit [Lead Poisoning \(pa.gov\)](#), or contact DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH if you have any questions.

Background

Lead exposure can have serious health consequences for children and pregnant women. Although lead is ubiquitous in the environment, we cannot see, taste, or smell it. Lead is much more harmful to children and pregnant women because it can affect their developing nervous systems and brains.




Following the [October 2023 recall](#) of cinnamon apple puree and applesauce products due to elevated lead levels linked to the cinnamon in those products and the concern for lead toxicity in children, the FDA initiated a targeted survey of ground cinnamon products from discount retail stores and analyzed the samples for lead and chromium.




Based on results from the survey, the FDA is recommending recalls of ground cinnamon from six distributors whose products had elevated lead levels ranging from 2.03 to 3.4 parts per million (ppm). These levels are significantly lower than the levels of lead associated with the [ongoing investigation into ground cinnamon from Ecuador supplied by Negasmart to Austrofoods](#), the manufacturer of the apple puree and applesauce products, which were between 2,270 ppm to 5,110 ppm in the cinnamon.

The FDA is advising consumers to stop using and throw away the ground cinnamon products listed below because samples of these products were found to contain elevated levels of lead. The FDA has recommended that the firms voluntarily recall these products, and consumers are advised not to buy these products.

While the ground cinnamon products in this alert may not be a food targeted to young children, cinnamon is used in many foods young children consume. Consistent with the FDA's [Closer to Zero](#) initiative, which focuses on reducing childhood exposure to lead, the FDA is recommending voluntary recall of the products listed above because prolonged exposure to the products may be unsafe. Removing the ground cinnamon products in this alert from the market will prevent them from contributing elevated amounts of lead to children's diets.

Based on the FDA's assessment, prolonged exposure to these products may be unsafe and could contribute to elevated levels of lead in the blood. Long-term exposure (months to years) to elevated levels of lead in the diet could contribute to adverse health effects, particularly for the portion of the population that may already have elevated blood lead levels from other exposures to lead. No illnesses or adverse events have been reported to date in association with these products.

Distributor	Retailers	Brand Names(s)	Lots/Codes	Product Image
La Fiesta Food Products La Miranda, CA	La Superior SuperMercados	La Fiesta	25033	
Moran Foods, LLC Saint Ann, MO	Save A Lot	Marcum	Best By: 10/16/25 10DB 04/06/25 0400B1	
MTCI Santa Fe Springs, CA	SF Supermarket	MK	No codes	

Raja Foods LLC Skokie, IL	Patel Brothers	Swad	KX21223	
Greenbriar International, Inc. Chesapeake, VA	Dollar Tree Family Dollar	Supreme Tradition	Best By: 09/29/25 09E8 04/17/25 04E11 12/19/25 12C2 04/12/25 04ECB12 08/24/25 08A_ _ 04/21/25 04E5 04/21/25 04E5 2025-09-22 09E20 (Missouri)	
El Chilar Apopka, FL	La Joya Morelense (Baltimore, MD)	El Chilar	F275EX1026 (Maryland) D300EX1024 (Maryland)	

Recommendations associated with this recall

- Review recall information, including pictures of the specific item being recalled. This information is available on the [FDA website](#).
- Encourage parents to immediately stop using and dispose of the recalled products. These products have a long shelf life. Parents should check their homes and discard these products.
- Providers should raise awareness about the recalled products among parents and recommend testing as appropriate.
- Consider blood lead testing for children or those who are pregnant or lactating if they are exposed to these and other lead sources.
- Laboratories and healthcare providers are required to report all blood lead test results, regardless of the lead level, for persons under 16 years of age to DOH through Pennsylvania's electronic disease surveillance system, PA-NEDSS.

To report a complaint or adverse event (illness or serious allergic reaction), you can

- Call an [FDA Consumer Complaint Coordinator](#) if you wish to speak directly to a person about your problem.
- Complete [an electronic Voluntary MedWatch](#) form online.
- Complete [a paper Voluntary MedWatch](#) form that can be mailed to FDA.

Additional resources on childhood lead exposure

- [FDA Alert – Cinnamon Products](#)
- [Lead Poisoning \(pa.gov\)](#)
 - [Elevated Blood Lead Level Resources \(pa.gov\)](#)
 - [Lead Poisoning FAQ \(pa.gov\)](#)
- [Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program | CDC](#)

- PA DOH lead information 1-800-440-LEAD

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of March 11, 2024, but may be modified in the future.