

Commissioner Betit: Possible Lead Poisoning from Mexican Pottery

Alaska's Health and Welfare Commissioner, J.W. Betit, issued a statement last week indicating that it is unsafe to use certain glazed, Mexican pottery because of possible lead poison which could result from leaching when mild acids come in contact with the earthenware.

Betit said the U.S. Food and Drug Administration discovered the danger after reports of a family with lead poisoning. The FDA collected 28 different samples of Mexican pottery and earthenware, 26 of which contained varying amounts of lead leached from the glaze.

The dishware and pottery may not be marked as Mexican, but if there is possibility of Mexican origin, consumers are urged to discontinue its use, with foods, immediately.

The Food and Drug Administration is asking all merchants to check their stocks and to remove all Mexican pottery and earthenware items from sale. Meanwhile FDA is attempting to contact all importers and distributors to ask recall of the products, and is informing customs officials that

FDA wants to examine all Mexican earthenware until further notice.

The FDA action is not an embargo on imports of Mexican pottery since commercial shipments tested and found safe will be allowed to enter the United States.

The United States Government has informed the Mexican authorities of these measures and it is understood that they are considering urgent measures.

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