



# Ohio Department of Agriculture and Ohio Department of Health



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For Immediate Release

## **Consumer Alert for Cosmetic Products Containing Surma/Kohl/Kajal**

The Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Department of Health today issued an alert to Ohio consumers because of the risk of lead poisoning associated with certain makeup produced outside the United States.

The particular products of concern are eye-area cosmetics (e.g., pencils and eyeliners) called Surma, a powdered eye area product manufactured and used in the Middle East, India, Pakistan and some parts of Africa, and that was believed to be the source of lead poisoning in a young child.

Available reference materials indicate that the Indian colorant "Surma" is also known in Arab countries as Kohl or Kajal. The products generally bear limited English language labeling. They are frequently imported in personal baggage and can be sold in stores that specialize in Middle Eastern commodities. Cosmetics containing Surma, Kohl or Kajal present a hazard to health because of their heavy metal content (i.e., they may contain more than acceptable trace levels of lead).

Consumers who have products containing Surma, Kohl or Kajal should:

- Stop using this product immediately.
- Put the remaining product in a sealable container or plastic bag.
- Immediately wash your hands and any other body parts that may have come into contact with this product. Wash exposed household surfaces with soap and hot water.
- Be sure to keep this product away from children.
- Do NOT discard the product by washing it down your sink or flushing it down your toilet. Instead, dispose of the sealed product in your regular household trash.
- Contact your health care provider to be tested for lead poisoning if you are concerned that you have been exposed.

### **For more information, please visit:**

Ohio Department of Health:

[http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/cfhs/lead\\_ch/infoparents.aspx](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/cfhs/lead_ch/infoparents.aspx)

Food and Drug Administration:

<http://www.fda.gov/Cosmetics/ProductandIngredientSafety/ProductInformation/ucm137250.htm>

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