

Health Warning: High Levels of Lead in Traditional Ceramic Ware or Pottery

Traditional pottery and other forms of ceramic ware may contain high levels of lead. These products may be made in many countries around the world, including Mexico, Ecuador, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

What is lead?

Lead is a poisonous metal that can damage the brain, nervous system, reproductive system, kidneys and other parts of the body. Lead can cause learning and behavior problems in young children. It can also be harmful for adults.

Why is lead added to traditional ceramic ware?

Lead may be added to these products to brighten colors and provide a smooth finish.



How does lead from ceramic ware get into the body?

The lead used on the ceramic ware can transfer to food or drinks that are prepared, stored or served in these products.

Where is traditional ceramic ware sold?

Traditional ceramic ware may be purchased online, abroad or in neighborhood stores in New York City.

How can I know if my ceramic ware contains lead?

You cannot tell without testing. To be safe, avoid using the following types of ceramic ware for preparing, serving or storing foods and drinks:

- Ceramic ware that is labeled for use only as a decorative item
- Traditional or handmade ceramic ware with a crude appearance or irregular shape
- Damaged or worn ceramic ware

For more information, visit fda.gov and search **lead-glazed traditional pottery**.

What should I do if I have used traditional ceramic ware?

- Call your doctor to request a blood test for lead.
- Keep products that contain lead away from children.
- Call 212-POISONS (212-764-7667) or visit nyc.gov/lead for more information.
- Call 311 to report locations where these products are sold.