



CERAMIC POTS AND DISHES

Lead has been found in some ceramic dishes and glazed pottery

Ceramic pots and dishes can have lead in the coating or decorations. The lead can get into food and drinks prepared, stored, or served in them, and then into your body.

Lead can be found in...

- Handmade, shiny, red-brown ceramics (terracotta) made in Mexico and other Latin American countries
- Dishes with colorful decorations made in Asian countries
- Older dishes and pots that are cracked, chipped, or that look chalky or dusty
- Lead crystal glassware
- Some ceramic water crocks



Even ceramics that aren't worn out, chipped, or cracked can expose you to lead. There is no way to remove lead from pots or dishes.

Protect your family from lead in dishes and pots

- **Don't buy dishes from swap meets or street vendors.**
- **Dishes marked "Lead Free"** have been found to contain lead. **Dishes marked "Lead Safe"** still contain small amounts of lead. **It's safest to use only dishes and pots made in the US or from well-known brands.**
- **Don't use antique dishes to store, cook, or serve food.**
- **Do not put dishes or pots that might contain lead in the dishwasher or microwave.** This can make it more likely the lead can get into food the next time the dish or pot is used. Lead could also get on other items in the dishwasher.
- Check for a **"Not for Food"** warning label. Use these items for decoration only.
- You can buy **lead-testing kits** at hardware stores or online to test your ceramic dishes and pots. The kits do not work on lead crystal.



For more information about lead in ceramics, call the **LA County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program** at **(800) 524-5323 (800-LA-4-LEAD)**.