


# Beware of Home Remedies and Medicines Containing Lead

Connecticut Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Program  
(860) 509-7299 • Hartford, CT



**H**ome remedies and medicines are used to help cure sick people. However, some remedies and medicines contain lead and may make people very sick and cause lead poisoning.



## CAUTION

**These home remedies are known to contain lead and are very dangerous!**

- Azarcon ~** A bright orange powder. Also known as Rueda, Coral, Maria Luisa, Alarcon, Liga. Used for an upset stomach or indigestion (“empacho”). This remedy contains almost 100% lead.
- Albayaalde ~** A white powder. Used for an upset stomach or indigestion (“empacho”). This remedy may contain up to 37% lead.
- Greta ~** A yellow powder. Used for an upset stomach or indigestion (“empacho”). This remedy contains almost 100% lead.
- Pay~loo~ah ~** A red powder. Used for rashes or fever.
- Ghasard ~** A brown powder. Used to aid digestion.
- Bala Goli ~** A round, flat, black bean that is dissolved in “gripe water.” Used to treat stomachaches.
- Kandu ~** A red powder. Used to treat stomachaches.
- Kohl (Alkohl) ~** A black powder. Used as a cosmetic eye make-up and also applied to skin infections and the navel of newborn children.

**Any amount of these home remedies is poisonous to children and adults. Do Not Use These Remedies!**



### **How Does Lead Affect The Body?**

- Lead gets into the body by swallowing or inhaling lead contaminated dust or materials.
- No amount of lead in the body is safe. Lead causes permanent damage! Lead can damage the brain and nervous system, interfere with growth, and cause hearing loss and learning disabilities. Severe poisoning can cause coma and death.
- Many children do not show signs of lead poisoning. If signs are present, they may include vomiting, upset stomach, irritability and restlessness.
- If a pregnant woman is exposed to lead, she and her unborn child may become lead poisoned. The lead can cause permanent damage to the mother and her baby.

### **What Should I Do If I Or My Child Has Taken A Home Remedy That Contains Lead?**

- Contact your doctor, clinic, or local health department immediately and seek advice.
- Many children qualify for free medical care. Contact the HUSKY program at 1-877-CTHUSKY (284-8759) for more information.
- Discontinue use of the remedy immediately.

*All children, regardless of whether they have taken a home remedy containing lead, should be tested for lead at 1 year and at 2 years of age. If the child is at risk for lead poisoning at other ages, the child should be tested at that time as well.*

### **Children may be at risk if:**

- They live in or regularly visit a building built before 1960,
- They live in or regularly visit a building built before 1978 that is being or has recently been renovated or remodeled,
- They live in or regularly visit a building that has peeling or chipping paint or deteriorating walls,
- They live with an adult or frequently visit an adult whose job or hobby exposes that adult to lead,
- They eat or drink from imported dishes or use home remedies.



Keeping Connecticut Healthy  
[www.dph.state.ct.us](http://www.dph.state.ct.us)

