

USFDA warns against imported cookware may leach dangerous levels of lead

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a safety alert warning consumers and retailers about certain imported cookware products that may leach significant levels of lead (Pb) into food, posing serious health risks.

According to the USFDA, some cookware made from aluminium, brass, and aluminium alloys, marketed as Hindalium/Hindolium or Indalium/Indolium, has tested positive for leaching lead into food during cooking. Lead exposure through contaminated food can be especially harmful to young children, women of childbearing age, and breastfeeding mothers.

The FDA noted that its analysis of some cookware products has demonstrated lead leaching into food. While investigations are ongoing, the following product has been specifically flagged:

Kadai/Karahi, Tiger White (PURE ALUMINIUM UTENSILS TM TIGER WHITE RTM NO: 2608606, an ISO 9001:2015 Certified Co. Saraswati Strips Pvt. Ltd., India)

Retailer: Mannan Supermarket, 166-11 Hillside Ave., 1st FL, Jamaica, NY 11432, New York

Manufacturer: Saraswati Strips Pvt. Ltd.

Product Photos: Two images of silver pots with a red and white label reading "Tiger White" (label states Kadai/Karahi Tiger White, PURE ALUMINIUM UTENSILS TM TIGER WHITE, RTM NO: 2608606, an ISO 9001:2015 Certified Co. Saraswati Strips Pvt. Ltd., India)

Recall Status: FDA has been unable to identify the distributor responsible for effectuating a recall.

The FDA emphasised that potentially affected products are not limited to this list, and more products may be added as the investigation continues.

FDA Recommendations:

Consumers should inspect their homes for the identified cookware and dispose of it immediately. The agency cautioned against donating or refurbishing these products.

Individuals concerned about potential lead exposure are advised to contact their healthcare provider.

Retailers and distributors are responsible for ensuring that the cookware they sell is safe for food contact and complies with FDA regulations. The FDA has made available testing protocols for checking cookware for lead leaching.

Companies are encouraged to consult with the FDA regarding the safety and regulatory compliance of their cookware products.

Health experts stress that there is no safe level of lead exposure, and even low levels can cause lasting harm. Children and infants are particularly vulnerable due to their smaller body size and rapid development. Lead poisoning can impair learning, lower IQ, and alter behaviour. At higher levels, exposure can lead to fatigue, abdominal pain, vomiting, and neurological effects.

The FDA reiterated that consuming food prepared in cookware contaminated with lead can contribute to elevated blood lead levels, highlighting the urgent need for consumers and retailers to take immediate precautions.