Skin Lightening Products Found to Contain Mercury, Hydroquinone and/or Steroids

TESTED PRODUCTS | UPDATED 7/1/2021

Skin lightening products are rooted in colorism

Skin lightening products may contain toxic chemicals that can negatively impact the consumer’s health and family living in the same space, such as children or elders. Reasons for using skin lightening products vary, though are often rooted in colorism.

Colorism is defined as discrimination that privileges light-skinned people over people with darker skin.

Promoting the love of the skin we were each naturally born with is one way to fight colorism. Search for #LoveYourSkin to find resources and inspirational messages.

Learn more about skin lightening products that may contain mercury and how to Choose Health and Avoid Skin Lightening (https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/skin/gpfs.html).
Skin Lightening Product and Level of Mercury, Hydroquinone and/or Steroids Detected

In testing conducted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the skin lightening products pictured below exceeded the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s limit of no more than one part per million (ppm) of mercury in cosmetic products, and/or contain hydroquinone or steroids. While hydroquinone and steroids can be legally found in some products intended for inflammatory skin conditions, those products are typically intended for only short-term use when appropriate, and they must meet stringent requirements for ingredient concentration, labeling and storage. Consumers may sometimes see the steroid hydrocortisone as an ingredient in over the counter products, however a product with unknown concentrations of any of these steroids is a higher health risk to consumers because of their potential toxicity. Being exposed to the chemicals in these products could cause serious health problems. DO NOT USE ANY OF THESE PRODUCTS.

This document only lists products tested by MPCA and MDH and were found to contain mercury, hydroquinone and/or steroids. THIS LIST IS NOT MEANT TO BE COMPREHENSIVE. Not all skin lightening products contain mercury, hydroquinone and/or steroids, BUT PRODUCTS NOT LISTED HERE MAY ALSO CONTAIN MERCURY, HYDROQUINONE AND/OR STEROIDS.

Skin lightening products tested in other parts of the U.S. have also been found to contain mercury, and mercury may also be present in products that have not been tested. See information below about untested products and disposal of products containing mercury.

A wide variety of skin lightening products is available, from many different sources, and it isn't possible to test all of them for mercury. For that reason, these products should always be used with caution. At a minimum, always make sure that:

- The product you are using has an ingredients list AND
- Mercury is not listed as an ingredient. Mercury may be listed under a number of different names, so check for anything that includes the words “calomel,” “mercuric,” “mercurous” or “mercurio.”

Safely dispose of skin lightening products

If you have skin care products that may contain mercury, take them to a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) site in your area. See the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website to find your HHW collection site (https://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/find-your-household-hazardous-waste-collection-site).
MSII Express Peeling Pearl Cream
Mercury: 38,000 ppm

Rice Milk Whitening Cream
Mercury: 7,470 – 35,000 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate

Meyyong Seaweed Super Whitening – Extra Whitening & Face Lift
Mercury: 30,000 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate

Monsepa Express Peeling
Mercury: 30,000 ppm
Pomegranate Whitening Set “Queenly Girl”
- 3 bottles, serum, and soap
Mercury: 0.53-29,000 ppm
Hydroquinone: Detected
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate

Anti Acne Melasma Cream
Mercury: 23,000 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate

Glutatione Cream White & Bright
Mercury: 20,000 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate

Jing Zhuang Jinyiqi Beauty Whitening Set
Mercury: 0.69-20,000 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate
Madame Organic Set – Whitening Arbutin, Collagen Mask, Pearl Skin, and Sunscreen
Mercury: 18,000 ppm
Steroids: Clobetasol, Hydrocortisone, Fluocinolone

Whitening Cream
Mercury: 17,000 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate

Hynes - La Tia Mana
Mercury: 13,000 ppm
Steroid: Clobetasol

CCM Cream
Mercury: 3,940 – 13,000 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate, Clobetasol
Cell Repair Placenta Sheep Cream
Mercury: 6,460 – 13,000 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate

Polla Gold - Super White Perfects
Mercury: 12,000 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate

Hnub Yiqi - Beauty Day & Night Cream
Mercury: 0.69 (day cream) ppm, 11,999 (night cream) ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate

Ba Be Special Cream
Mercury: 11,000 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate, Clobetasol
88 Total White Underarm Cream
Mercury: 11,000

Avocado Night Cream
Mercury: 3,730 – 9,700 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate, Clobetasol

Qian Li
Mercury: 9,300 ppm
Steroids: Clobetasol

Hua Shu Li
Mercury: 7,700 ppm
Steroids: Clobetasol
Rice Milk Whitening Cream - Lighten Skin  
Mercury: 7,600 ppm  
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate

HIYADY Hyalulonic Filler & ULTRA White Night Cream  
Mercury: 7,400 ppm  
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate

Snow White Armpit Whitening Underarm Cream  
Mercury: 6,700 ppm

Super Gold Caviar Whitening Cream  
Mercury: 5,700 ppm  
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate
Lovely Paris Extra Brightening
Mercury: 5,500 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate

CCM Miss Beauty 7 Days White
Mercury: 3,700 – 7,290 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Clobetasol

Polla Anti-Acne Cream
Mercury: 3,300 ppm

Mclean – Young and Fresh
Mercury: 2,400 ppm
Steroid: Clobetasol
Natural Cream Night Cream Skin Care  
Mercury: 2,200 ppm  
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate, Clobetasol, Hydrocortisone, Betamethasone Dipropionate

Milk Cream  
Mercury: 1,700 – 4,500 ppm  
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate

OK Brand  
Mercury: 1,600 – 1,860 ppm  
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate, Clobetasol

(Unmarked Jar with Rose Design)  
Mercury: 1,300 ppm  
Steroids: Betamethasone, Clobetasol
Specail Cream
Mercury: 800 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Clobetasol, Fluocinolone

Popieu Turmeric Facial Cream
Mercury: 420 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Fluocinolone

B.T Special Cream
Mercury: 51 – 96 ppm
Steroid: Clobetasol

Promina Ginseng Pearl Cream
Mercury: 29 ppm
Qian MEI yellow and white jars
Mercury: 6.4 – 4,650 ppm

Facial Mask Anti-Oxidant and Whitening
Mercury: 17 ppm

Maiv Lis (red flower)
Mercury: 14 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Fluocinolone

Yoko Yogurt Milky Body Lotion
Mercury: 9.3 ppm
Jing Zhuang Jinyiqi Whitening Sun Block (red)
Mercury: 8.2 ppm

Silky Cool Extra
Mercury: 7 ppm

Arche Pearl Cream
Mercury: 5.2 ppm

Eity Eight - Dewy Face Glow
Mercury: 5 ppm
Mclean – Apricot Scrub
Mercury: 4.7 ppm

Pearl Cream
Mercury: 3.6 ppm

KA White – Night Serum
Mercury: 3.2 ppm

(No English Product Name)
Mercury: 1.6-2.2 ppm
Doctor Luei Speckle Killer
Mercury: 1.5-2 ppm
Hydroquinone: Detected

Fo Me Herbal Mask
Mercury: 2 ppm

Hiso Diamond MGT
Mercury: 1.6 ppm

Jing Zhuang Jinyiqi – Day Cream (pink)
Mercury: 1.5 ppm
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone 17-Valerate
12 Plus Whitening Less Shave
Mercury: 1.2 ppm

Darlene Lightening Star Fruit Soap
Mercury: 1.1 ppm

Kem Nam Tan Nhang
Steroid: Clobetasol

(No English Product Name)
Steroids: Betamethasone, Clobetasol

Maiv Lis – Tshuaj Pleev Plu Mos
Steroids: Betamethasone, Fluocinolone

Phone
Steroids: Betamethasone, Fluocinolone
One Today
Steroids: Betamethasone, Clobetasol

Seaweed Extra Whitening & Facelift – Blue Lid
Hydroquinone: Detected
Steroids: Betamethasone, Betamethasone-17, Hydroquinone

MSL Cream
Steroids: Betamethasone, Fluocinolone

Beauty Whitening Cream
Steroid: Clobeta
Additional Products Tested for Mercury

The following products were tested in 2011 and 2016 for mercury only; testing did not include hydroquinone or steroids. **DO NOT USE ANY OF THESE PRODUCTS.**

BB Health & Beauty
Mercury: 54,000 ppm

Lemon Herbal Whitening Cream
Mercury: 33,000 ppm
Mercury: 28,800 ppm

(No English Product Name)

Whitening Cream
Mercury: 22,000 ppm
Lulanjina – Yellow Cream
Mercury: 16,700 (yellow) ppm, 12,800 (white) ppm

JIAOYAN
Mercury: 10,200 ppm

(Unlabeled Container) – packaged with soap and anti-fungal cream
Mercury: 9,950 ppm

Prime White
Mercury: 9,590 ppm

BBC Creams
Mercury: 9,130 (green) ppm, 4,390 (blue) ppm, 9 (white) ppm
Crème Diana C.T.R.
Mercury: 6,370 ppm

CCM Perfect 501 White Cream
Mercury: 5,810 ppm

Be Be Special Cream
Mercury: 5,600 ppm

CCM Naomi 5 Day Special Cream
Mercury: 5,400 ppm

CCM Cream
Mercury: 5,180 ppm

Fasco
Mercury: 4,600 ppm
BB Cream
Mercury: 4,350 ppm

CCM V Special Cream
Mercury: 4,320 ppm

CCM Q10 Extra Whitening
Mercury: 4,090 ppm

GCM Whitening Special Cream
Mercury: 3,440 ppm

CCM Classic
Mercury: 3,170 ppm

Rojzy Jiali
Mercury: 2,230 ppm
Jiao Li
Mercury: 1,700 ppm

Mild Cream
Mercury: 1,630 ppm

(No English Product Name)
Mercury: 1,600 ppm

Cream Aghader
Mercury: 135 ppm

Savor Pour L’acne – Diana Soap
Mercury: 31 ppm

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4899.