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Sources: Tribune reporting, Columbia Analytical Services Inc.

Mercury content of skin-lightening creams

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By Ellen Gabler and Sam Roe – May 25, 2010

The Chicago Tribune sent 50 skin-lightening creams and products to a certified lab to be tested for mercury. Six were found to contain amounts banned by federal law. Here is a list of all products tested, including those that showed no mercury in a single test. This does not guarantee that they are mercury-free; tests on different batches of the same cream might yield different results.

[Read about the FDA's response to the Tribune's investigation »](#)

Search this table by the name of the product or the manufacturing location, or sort by any of the columns below.

Search this table:

| Product name | Location manufactured | Amount of mercury (parts per million) |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Shabright Clear and Bright Skin Formula | India | 1.8 |
| Top-Gel MCA Extra Pearl Cream | Taiwan | 1.9 |
| Lulanjina * | China | 14,700 (yellow cream); 14,100 (white) |
| Stillman's Skin Bleach Cream | Pakistan | 29,600 |
| Ling Ji Su containers * | China | 6,530 (white cream); 6,090 (yellow) |
| Crème Diana C.T.R. | Lebanon | 6,900 |
| Top-Gel MCA Extra Pearl Cream | Taiwan | 7,030 |
| Ly-Na Pearl Face Cream** | Taiwan | Complied with safety standard ** |
| San Ing Face Cream ** | Taiwan | Complied with safety standard ** |
| African Formula | Unknown | Not detected |
| African Formula Black Cream | European Union | Not detected |
| Ballet Ginseng Pearl Cream | China | Not detected |
| Roldan 2% | Dominican Republic | Not detected |
| Arche Pearl Cream | Thailand | Not detected |
| Ballet Pearl Cream | China | Not detected |
| Bamboo Salt Durable Whitening Essence Cream | Unknown | Not detected |
| Beanne Extra Pearl Cream | Taiwan | Not detected |
| Betnovate cream | Pakistan | Not detected |
| 24K | Unknown | Not detected |
| Black and White Bleaching Cream | U.S.A. | Not detected |
| Cora Super White | Lebanon | Not detected |
| Dermaline Skin Lightening Cream | Dominican Republic | Not detected |
| Dermaline Skin Whitening Cream | Dominican Republic | Not detected |
| Dr. Fred Summit Skin Whitener | Harvey, IL | Not detected |
| Emami Naturally Fair Pearls | England | Not detected |
| English Ubtan Turmeric Cream | Pakistan | Not detected |
| Fair & Lovely | India | Not detected |
| Fair & White Lightening Cream | France | Not detected |
| G&G Lightening Beauty Cream | Ivory Coast | Not detected |
| Ginseng Placenta Cream | Unknown | Not detected |
| Huile Eclaircissante Skin Light | Abidjan, Ivory Coast | Not detected |
| Ling Ji Su tube | China | Not detected |
| Liyanshijia Vinegar Beautifying Whitening Mask | Unknown | Not detected |
| Lulanjina tube | China | Not detected |
| Ly-Na Nourish Face-Cream Medicated | Taiwan | Not detected |
| MJ Royal African Extra Strength | Lebanon | Not detected |
| Maxi Light | Ivory Coast | Not detected |
| Mekako Lightening Cream | Italy | Not detected |
| Nadinola | Mississippi | Not detected |
| P&W Plus Lightening Cream | Switzerland | Not detected |
| Pearl Cream - imported by Kingsway Trading of NY | China | Not detected |
| Peau Claire Beauty Body Cream | Abidjan, Ivory Coast | Not detected |
| Sivocclair Lightening Cream | Abidjan, Ivory Coast | Not detected |
| Tura Active Plus | South Africa | Not detected |
| Tura Skin Tone Cream | Dubai | Not detected |
| U.B. U.V. Whitening Pearl Cream | Thailand | Not detected |
| Venus de Milo | Nigeria | Not detected |
| Vicco Turmeric Skin Cream | India | Not detected |
| Zarina | England | Not detected |
| Roldan 1.5% | Dominican Republic | Not detected |

Products were purchased by Chicago Tribune reporters and tested at Columbia Analytical Services Inc. in Kelso, Wash.

* Two products had two small containers of cream within their package. Both the white and yellow cream in each package were tested for mercury.

** These creams contained less than 1 part per million of mercury, but slightly more than the non-detect level. Because "lightening" or "whitening" is not listed on the packaging, the products are considered cosmetics and can contain 1 part per million of mercury. Lightening and whitening creams cannot contain any mercury. Ly-Na Pearl Face Cream contained 0.181 parts per million of mercury. San Ing contained 0.249 ppm.