



# Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

*Healthy People, Healthy Communities*

## Press Alert

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### Water Cocks May Cause Lead Poisoning

(Ukiah) The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch of the California Department of Public Health announced in December that San Luis Obispo County had a case of childhood lead poisoning that appears to be associated with a water crock.

Lead is a poison that harms children's bodies and brains. The most common results of childhood lead poisoning are behavior and learning problems.

Adults can also be lead-poisoned, but young children are most vulnerable.

The case was a 12 month-old infant whose formula was being prepared with water from the crock. The mother and father also had elevated blood lead levels. The water from the crock was tested and found to contain significant amounts of lead. The environmental investigator reported that the inside of the crock swabbed positive for lead.

The water crock had a white glaze. Markings on the bottom of the crock indicate that it was made in Mexico. It was not possible to trace the crock back to a specific manufacturer or distributor. Below is a picture of the crock from San Luis Obispo County along with two crocks associated with lead poisoning cases in Orange County in 2004.

The Mendocino County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program recommends that families not use these types of crocks unless they are properly tested and determined to be lead-free.



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Children should have their blood tested for lead at one year of age and again at two years of age, or up to age six if not previously tested. For a blood lead test, call your child's doctor.

For more information on lead poisoning, call the Mendocino County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (707) 472-2727 or toll free at 1-800-734-7793.



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