



## Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

*Healthy People, Healthy Communities*

### Press Release

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WARNING: CERAMIC POTS MAY CAUSE LEAD POISONING**  
(Ukiah) The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program of Contra Costa County found lead in traditional Mexican bean pots that were stamped "LEAD FREE". The pots were bought at FoodMaxx in Contra Costa County. They were made in Mexico and imported by Quirarte's Imports. The FoodMaxx in Ukiah no longer carried the pots as of October 26, 2009.

If you bought one of these pots from FoodMaxx, return it to the store for a refund.

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 Mendocino County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program recommends that families not use these types of pots for cooking unless they are tested and found to be lead-free. The lead in these pots cannot be washed out or boiled out. These pots are for ornamental use only, and children should not touch them.

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) 472-2600 or toll free at 1-800-734-7793.



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