



## Lead in Home Remedies

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**CAUTION:** Home remedies and medicines can help cure sick people. However, some of these home remedies contain lead and will make you very sick.

***THESE HOME REMEDIES CONTAIN LEAD AND ARE VERY DANGEROUS!!***

- **Azarcon** a bright orange powder also known as Rueda, Coral, Maria Luisa, Alarcon, Liga
- **Greta** a yellow powder

Both Azarcon and Greta are given for "empacho" (intestinal illness).

Both Azarcon and Greta are almost 100% lead.

Any amount is poisonous to children and adults.

### **Why is lead dangerous?**

Lead poisoning can cause damage to the kidneys, nervous system, and brain. Children have suffered permanent brain damage and even died from the use of Azarcon and Greta. Children with lead poisoning usually do not look or act sick. When they do show signs of lead poisoning, their symptoms can be very much like empacho. The symptoms of lead poisoning can include tiredness, sleeplessness, stomach ache and vomiting. Often there are no symptoms at all.

### **What can I do if I've taken or have given my child a home remedy that contains lead?**

You should get medical attention immediately. Call your doctor, clinic or local health department for more information or for help with treatment for lead poisoning. Ask your health department to arrange for a free test to determine if there is lead in your Azarcon or Greta. Medical information is confidential. Your health is the main concern. You can also call the California Poison Control System at [1-800-222-1222](tel:1-800-222-1222) or visit their website at [www.calpoison.org](http://www.calpoison.org) for more information. Someone is available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, 365 days a year to answer your questions and help in an emergency. Language interpreters are available.

## **DANGER!! THESE HOME REMEDIES ALSO CONTAIN LEAD**

### **Hmong community:**

- **Pay-loo-ah** a red powder given for rash or fever

### **Asian Indian communities:**

- **Ghasard** a brown powder given as an aid to digestion
- **Bala Goli** a round bean dissolved in "gripe water" and used for stomach aches
- **Kandu** a red powder used to treat stomach ache
- **Kohl (Alkohol)** a powder used both as a cosmetic eye make-up and applied to skin infections and the navel of a newborn child
- **Sindoor** a brightly colored ceremonial powder
- **Surma** a black cosmetic used on the eyes, and also as a teething powder.

For more information, contact the Solano County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (707) 784-8070.



*The information on this page was developed by Santa Clara County CLPPP.*