

# T O O T H P A S T E



## WARNING

Throw away or return toothpaste if it is:

- Labeled "Made in China"
- Fake "Colgate" which is:
  - Labeled "Manufactured in South Africa"
  - A 5 oz or 100 ml tube
  - Contains misspelled words on the label, including "South African Dental Assocation", "SOUTH AFRLCA", and "isclinically"

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The U.S. Food & Drug Administration has issued two warnings this month about certain toothpastes manufactured in China and South Africa that may contain a toxic chemical called diethylene glycol (DEG).

In the U.S., these products are typically being sold at "dollar-type" discount stores, convenience stores, and small food markets.

Suspect tubes of toothpaste have reportedly been found in Somerville and Sturbridge, as well as in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Florida.

As of June 8, 2007, there were no U.S. reports of poisonings from toothpaste containing DEG. The chemical, which is commonly found in antifreeze, is sometimes used illegally as an inexpensive sweetener and thickening agent.

Cambridge residents should throw away or return to the store for refund:

- 1) Any toothpaste labeled as "Made in China."
- 2) Any fake "Colgate" toothpaste, which is:
  - Labeled as "Manufactured in South Africa"
  - A 5-oz. or 100 ml tube
  - Contains misspelled words on the label, including "South African Dental Assocation," "SOUTH AFRLCA," and "isclinically"

### **CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**



Cambridge Health Alliance

Questions? Call 617-665-3800  
Ask for public health nurse