

Claire's recalls 3 cosmetic products due to possible asbestos contamination

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(HealthDay)—Claire's Stores, Inc., announced a voluntary recall of three

of its cosmetic products on Tuesday.

The move follows a warning issued last week by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that said certain Claire's products may contain potentially cancer-causing [asbestos](#).

"Out of an abundance of caution, today Claire's Stores, Inc., announced a voluntary recall of three [cosmetic products](#): Claire's Eye Shadows, Claire's Compact Powder and Claire's Contour Palette," the company said in a statement.

"We initiated this voluntary recall after testing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration indicated the possible presence of asbestos fibers in product samples from one lot of each product. Inhalation of asbestos over time has been linked to serious adverse health consequences," the company added.

"The products are no longer available in our stores, but may still be in the homes of consumers," the company noted.

The FDA first became aware of reports of possible asbestos contamination in some cosmetic products sold by Claire's and Justice retailers two years ago. Those initial tests were conducted by third-party laboratories, so the FDA ordered further tests by an independent lab.

The agency said that further testing confirmed the presence of asbestos in samples of three cosmetic products from Claire's and one product sample from Justice. The Justice product has been recalled by the company, but Claire's had refused to recall the three products that tested positive for asbestos.

Those products are: Claire's Eye Shadows, Batch No/Lot No: 08/17; Claire's Compact Powder, Batch No/Lot No: 07/15; and Claire's Contour

Palette, Batch No/Lot No: 04/17.

Cosmetics are not required to be approved by the FDA, the agency noted. However, it does have some tools to protect consumers.

For example: "Cosmetics must not be 'adulterated' or 'misbranded,' meaning they must be safe for consumers when used according to directions on the label, or in the customary or expected way, and they must be properly labeled," FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb explained last week.

The FDA also announced new measures, including "working with cosmetics manufacturers and requesting information about what procedures they use to ensure their cosmetics are safe." Specifically, the agency said it will ask manufacturers how "they ensure that talc used in any cosmetic product is free from asbestos."

The FDA stressed that the vast majority of cosmetics that contain talc are not thought to contain asbestos.

"In 2010, we surveyed 34 cosmetic products including body powders, face powders, foundation, eye shadow, blush and samples from four major talc suppliers and found no traces of asbestos contamination using the most sensitive techniques available," Gottlieb noted.

But stepped-up inquiries with cosmetics makers should "help us better identify specific cosmetic products and raw ingredient suppliers that may be more likely to be contaminated," he added.

The FDA is also asking cosmetics companies to register their products and list ingredients, including talc, used in their products.

More information: U.S. Food and Drug Administration, news release,

March 5, 2019; Claire's Stores, Inc., statement, March 12, 2019

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has more on [talc](#).

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