



## Lead Chromate Facts

- Lead chromates are pigments mostly used for color in paints and plastics, but are also found in lipsticks, eye liner, rubber, ceramics, and printing inks.
- Lead chromates have been used to adulterate spices in the U.S. and abroad. In 2024, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration discovered that lead chromate added to cinnamon used in applesauce sold in pouches for young children was responsible for hundreds of lead poisoning cases.
- Lead chromates are the most widely used pigments and account for 3% of worldwide lead consumption.
- These pigments not only pose a lead hazard, but also contain hexavalent chromium which is also a well-known human carcinogen.
- Lead Chromates are widely used in road marking paints causing exposures to workers and adding costs for the eventual removal process to cover OSHA compliance and for hazardous waste disposal.
- The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) investigated the remaining uses of lead chromates and found that there are equivalent substitutes for all applications. Therefore the European Commission banned the use, production, import and export of lead chromate in 2016.
- The large chemical company BASF phased out lead chromate starting in 2012 and the large paint company Akzo Nobel removed lead from all products in 2011.
- The European PVC industry voluntarily removed lead chromate in 2015.
- Lead chromate was present in 51% of road paints tested in a survey conducted in Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia and Illinois.
- Blackstone and American Securities, two large private equity firms, refuse to stop making and selling these hazardous chemicals despite offering safer substitute pigments.