

Cadmium-Tainted Jewelry Collection and Recycling Program Started by the City of Thousand Oaks

A recent investigation by the Associated Press (AP) found that cheap jewelry for children (primarily imported from China) may contain dangerous levels of cadmium. Wal-Mart and Claire's have both pulled the jewelry from their shelves based on reports that high amounts of cadmium were detected in a "Best Friends" bracelet, bracelet charms, and "The Princess and the Frog" pendants. The cadmium was used as a cheap replacement because of the reduced levels of lead acceptable in children's products. These materials are toxic to the environment with cadmium ranking 7th on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's list of most hazardous substances in the environment.

The City of Thousand Oaks encourages residents not to throw jewelry they suspect contains lead or cadmium in the trash. Temporary drop-off locations have been established to allow residents of Thousand Oaks to recycle these materials in an environmentally safe manner. A special jewelry collection tube has been placed next to the household battery collection tubes at the Newbury Park and Thousand Oaks libraries. A collection tube is located downstairs by the Public Works and Planning Counter at City Hall. Residents can bring jewelry in addition to used household batteries to these locations during normal business hours.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has additional information at www.cpsc.gov and the City's Website contains updated information on cadmium-tainted jewelry and other environmental related programs at www.toaks.org or call (805) 449-SAVE (7283).

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