

Melamine Fact Sheet

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

What is melamine?

Melamine is a white powder used in making plastic products.

Is melamine harmful?

Melamine can cause kidney problems, if consumed in large amounts. In China, thousands of babies became ill recently because of a tainted milk supply.

Why did Chinese companies add melamine to milk products?

Some Chinese companies watered down their milk and added melamine to cheat on protein content tests. Melamine was found in large amounts in batches of contaminated infant formula.

Could my baby's formula be contaminated with melamine?

The infant formula supply in the United States is safe. US infant formula companies do not add melamine to their formulas or use any milk products from China. And infant formulas made in China are not sold in the US.

Melamine has been found in trace amounts in some formulas sold in the United States. But these very low levels of melamine are a result of plastics used to make and store the formula and are considered safe. There have been no reports of sickness from melamine consumption in the United States.

Should I take my baby off infant formula?

No. Parents using infant formula should continue using U.S. manufactured infant formula. Switching away from using one of these infant formulas to other foods or home-made formulas could be harmful to your baby. Infants should not be given cow's milk before 1 year of age.

Risks of formula feeding

Contaminants, bacteria and formula recalls are a risk of formula feeding. Breastfeeding offers many benefits (nutrition, immune, safety, etc.) that infant formula cannot provide. Continue breastfeeding and offer it over infant formula to protect the health of both child and mother.

Content Source:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/melamine/chinafood.asp>

<http://www.who.int/csr/media/faq/QAmelamine/en/>