



24 September 2010

JOINT DOH-DENR ADVISORY
Series of 2010 - 0001

**SUBJECT: BAN ON SILVER-JEWELRY CLEANING SOLUTION-
CONTAINING CYANIDE AND OTHER TOXIC SUBSTANCES**

In view of the increasing public health concern on the reported poisoning cases attributed to silver cyanide cleaning solution-containing cyanide and other toxic substances as documented by the University of the Philippines-National Poison Management and Control Center (UP-NPMCC), the public is hereby warned on buying unregistered and/or unlabeled silver jewelry cleaning solution/agents proliferating in the market today. Relative to this, the Department of Health has earlier issued Department Memorandum No. 2010-0159 dated July 05, 2010 on the "Health Advisory on Silver-Jewelry Cleaning Agents" to the various DOH Offices on the public health precautionary/preventive measures including early recognition and management of cyanide poisoning cases, for dissemination to the general public.

Laboratory analysis of samples of these silver cleaners solution show elevated levels of cyanide clearly posing imminent danger or even death to humans, particularly when accidentally or deliberately ingested. The Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) declare silver-jewelry cleaning solution-containing cyanide and other toxic substances as threat to health and safety and therefore reiterate the strict prohibition on their sale in the market.

All commercial establishment such as jewelry shops and other retail outlets and ambulant vendors are strongly warned against selling and/or dispensing unregistered and unlabeled silver cleaners solution/agents. Anyone found selling the banned products shall be penalized in accordance with the provisions of the DOH-Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under Administrative Order 312 (PD881) on Household Hazardous Substances. Also, all registered importers, distributors, and manufacturers of cyanide and cyanide compounds are warned of distributing the said toxic substances to unregistered clients/end-users and penalized under DENR AO No. 97-39 of RA 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Act).

The public is enjoined to report to the DOH-FDA (Tel. No. 8078275) any information that may lead to the apprehension of persons importing, manufacturing, distributing and selling the subject products without product registration and proper labeling. Being suspected of cyanide-containing and other toxic substances, the DOH-FDA further direct all individuals and entities in possession of unregistered and unlabeled silver cleaning agents to surrender to the nearest DOH-FDA or DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) or its corresponding Regional Offices to ensure proper disposal.

This advisory is jointly issued by the DOH and the DENR in the interest of protecting the public health and safety that the government is tasked to uphold at all times.

For information and dissemination to all concerned.

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