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Earlier this week (3/10/2019) Tamara Rubin, of Lead Safe Mama, LLC tested vintage Tupperware (c. 1970s) and found high levels of toxicants – including Mercury, Cadmium, Lead, and Arsenic - at levels and presence that varied with product color.



The levels of toxicants found in these products are significantly higher than what would be *currently* allowed (in newly-made products intended for use by children today). Lead (Pb) levels found were found to be as high as 2,780 parts per million (ppm), Mercury (Hg) levels were found to be as high as 1,058 ppm and Cadmium (Cd) levels were as high as 3,380 ppm. There are different standards for toxicity considerations for each of these metals, however Lead is generally considered toxic to children at levels above 100 ppm, Cadmium at or above 75 ppm and Mercury at or above 100 ppm. (Source: <https://www.neha.org/sites/default/files/publications/jeh/JEH-JanFeb2015-Vintage-Toys.pdf>)

**Viral Post On Facebook:**

Since initially sharing these findings on social media on Sunday, March 10, 2019, the original post has been read more than 250,000 times on the [LeadSafeMama.com](http://LeadSafeMama.com) blog, and shared more than 5,500 times on Facebook (reaching more than 116,000 people on Facebook as well.) Link: [https://www.facebook.com/LeadSafeMama/posts/2111711058947287?\\_\\_tn\\_\\_=-R](https://www.facebook.com/LeadSafeMama/posts/2111711058947287?__tn__=-R) Additionally, the story has been picked up and shared by dozens of other *bloggers* who focus on parenting, cooking, and healthy living. The combined posts (on Facebook and the blog) also have more than 300 comments.

**Supportive Science:**

One of the reasons these findings are going viral is that many of the ardent fans of vintage Tupperware are disbelieving of the fact that of their beloved household products could contain such harmful and toxic heavy metals. A common refrain in the comments is along the lines of, ***“If this were a problem it would have been all over the news already!”*** The work of research scientists Gillian Zaharias Miller, PhD (Ecology Center, 2015) and Andrew Turner (School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Plymouth University, Drake Circus, Plymouth, England - 2018) supports these findings - and the concern about heavy metals in vintage plastics that might frequently be used by children. Link: <https://tamararubin.com/2019/03/scientific-research-paper-from-2015-confirming-the-presence-of-toxicants-in-vintage-plastics/>

**Background:**

Lead Safe Mama, LLC is an independent consumer goods watchdog with a focus on childhood Lead-poisoning prevention. Tamara Rubin (aka #LeadSafeMama), is trained and certified in using XRF technology to test consumer goods, and with the support and help of her readers, tests new and vintage consumer goods for toxicants. Tamara’s work *finding Lead in the popular fidget spinner toys* was acknowledged in a piece done by CBS This Morning, on November 8, 2017. Link: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fidget-spinners-high-levels-of-lead-consumer-advocacy-organization-report/> She has won multiple awards for her advocacy work, including two from the federal government.

Tamara became a childhood Lead-poisoning prevention advocate after her children were acutely Lead-poisoned in 2005. She now has four sons ages 22, 16, 14 and 10 years old and has lived with her family in Portland, Oregon since 2002. She started blogging as Lead Safe Mama in 2016.