

# Toxic Fashion

TRENDY OR "LEADY": THE SIX YEAR EFFORT TO REMOVE LEAD FROM THE FASHION INDUSTRY

## Top 5 Fashion Offenders per year: 2012 - 2017

### Did You Know...

High levels of lead are found in some handbags, shoes, belts and other fashion accessories?

Used in the pigment to tint faux leather products, lead is most often detected in brightly-colored accessories, but also sometimes found in brown and black faux leathers.

### 2012

### 2012

Items with lead	Retailer
13	Forever 21
13	Target
8	Nordstrom
7	Macy's
6	TJ Maxx



Over the past six years, CEH has taken action to remove lead from the fashion industry, resulting in a noticeable decline in the number of items sold with lead; however, exceptions continue to exist.

In 2017, CEH identified **169** fashion accessories with lead. The five worst fashion offenders were **DND Fashion, Asos.com, Elegant Footwear, Forever Link, and Nordstrom.**



Retailer: Marshalls | Brand: Jack Rogers

### 2013

Retailer	Items with lead
Wet Seal	30
Ebags	25
DSW	24
Rue21	22
Forever 21	18



### Problem:

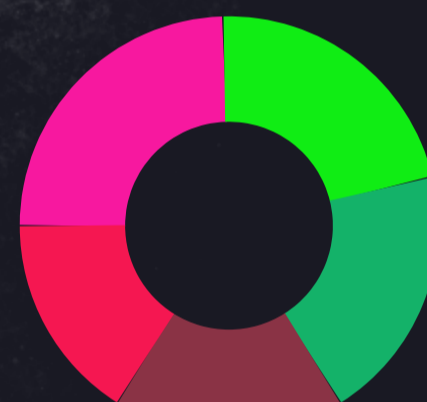
Exposure to lead causes serious health problems. These include lower IQ test scores and behavior problems in children, as well as high blood pressure, heart disease and cancer in adults. When pregnant women are exposed, lead can harm their children.

### CEH Solution:

In 2009, CEH sued major retailers and suppliers for selling fashion accessories with high levels of lead. As a result, these companies agreed to strict limits on the lead content of their products.

### 2014

Items with lead	Retailer
26	Wet Seal
23	TJX/TJ Maxx
21	Rue 21
19	Ross
17	DSW



Retailer: Ross | Brand: Perfect Image New York

### 2015

Retailer	Items with lead
Rue 21	18
Cornerstone	14
TJX	13
Ross	11
AM Retail	10



Since 2012, CEH has tested over **7,000 products** from more than **100 retailers**, helping to remove lead-based items from storefronts and online websites.

### 2016

Items with lead	Retailer
35	Elegant Footwear
24	Cornerstone
22	DND Fashion
17	DSW
16	TJX/TJ Maxx



### What Can You Do?

When purchasing fashion accessories, look for items made of natural materials rather than faux leather. If you already own faux leather products, replace those that are old and worn.

### 2017

Retailer	Items with lead
DND Fashion	15
Asos.com	13
Nordstrom	9
Forever Link	8
Elegant Footwear	8



Retailer: AshleyStewart.com | Brand: Ashley Stewart

If you are concerned about a particular fashion accessory, feel free to send your product to CEH for free lead testing.

Ongoing...



Click here to stay updated on our toxic offender research.