

January 9, 2023

Mr. Kirk B Vashaw
Chief Executive Officer
Spangler Candy Company
400 North Portland Street
PO Box 71
Bryan, OH 43506

Dear Mr Vashaw,

We write to urge Spangler Candy Company to remove Red Dye No. 3 from its candies, as it is a known carcinogen that has been banned by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in cosmetics since 1990. We further recommend that Spangler Candy commit to a clear timetable for its removal.

Last month, over 20 organizations, including Consumer Reports, submitted a petition to the FDA calling on the agency to prohibit Red Dye No. 3 in food, dietary supplements, and ingested drugs. As noted in the petition, there is substantial evidence for the carcinogenic effects of Red Dye No. 3 that would be cause of concern for anyone consuming products that include this synthetic coloring.

“The FDA found in 1990 that long-term feeding studies of FD&C Red No. 3 in rats showed that treated animals developed adenomas and carcinomas of the thyroid and ‘provided convincing evidence that FD&C Red No. 3 is an animal carcinogen,” the petition states.

In fact, the petition further notes that the FDA concluded that the evidence was robust enough to “firmly establish” that Red Dye No. 3 causes thyroid cancer in male rats. As a result, it terminated the provisional listings of Red Dye No. 3 for use in cosmetics, including lipsticks and other ingested cosmetics, and externally applied drugs. Inexplicably, although these external uses were deemed unsafe, ingested uses continued.

Consumers expect Spangler Candy products to be safe and free from substances that can cause harm. Unfortunately, despite the long-established record of negative health effects, we found that Red Dye No. 3 remains in many Spangler products including the following:

- [Sweethearts ®](#)
- [Canada Mints Wintergreen flavor](#)
- [Original Necco Wafer ®](#)
- [Strawberry Bon Bons](#)
- [Starlight Fruit Candy Discs](#)
- [Cinnamon Hard Candy Discs](#)
- [Peppermint with Cinnamon Mints](#)
- [Canada Mints Wintergreen](#)
- [Red Birds Assorted Puffs](#)

We are urging immediate action on Spangler's candy products specifically because of the seasonality of the Sweethearts product line. Consumers enjoying Valentine's candy should not be unwittingly exposed to known carcinogens.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We hope Spangler Candy will act urgently to address Red Dye No. 3 in all products, and request a response by Wednesday January 18, 2023. If you would like to discuss this matter, please contact me at 202-744-5291.

Sincerely,

Brian Ronholm
Director, Food Policy
Consumer Reports