



May 22, 2026

Donald A. Prater, D.V.M.
Acting Deputy Commissioner for Food
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Dr. Prater:

Consumer Reports (CR) writes to formally notify the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of concerning high levels of lead we found in Black & Decker PowerCrush blenders, model number BL1230, manufactured by Spectrum Brands, Inc.

According to an incident report (20260116-C1A14-2147324493) on the CPSC's [SaferProducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov) public database submitted by a state government agency, which as of Thursday, May 21, 2026, has been taken down, a consumer's one-year old child underwent an "elevated blood lead level investigation," which "revealed no lead hazards in the child's environment except for a blender, which their parent used every day to make their baby food."¹ The incident report states that "an external component of the blender was made of lead and was shedding lead dust." The report also stated that further testing showed that the lead dust was contaminating the food processed by the blender. The assessor detected lead levels as high as 3060 parts per billion (ppb), equal to 3.06 parts per million (ppm) in the tested food (see images below).

In response to this report, CR purchased three BL1230 model blenders and conducted comprehensive lead testing on several of the metal components. Our test results confirmed elevated lead levels in two of the blenders. Specifically, we detected lead in a small metal ring in the blade assembly, referred to by the company as a blade holder,² that comes into direct contact with food (see image below). We found lead levels exceeding 6000 ppm in one blender, and levels exceeding 4000 ppm in a second blender. We did not detect any lead in the third blender we tested.

In 2024, the FDA issued a letter to retailers and distributors of cookware that stated, "There is no known safe level of exposure to lead," and "[d]eveloping fetuses, infants, and children are particularly vulnerable to the potential harmful effects from lead exposure because of their smaller body sizes, metabolism, and rapid growth."³

Consumer Reports is concerned about the potential scale of this serious health and safety hazard. We respectfully request that the FDA investigate this incident and product line. We also request that the FDA coordinate with Spectrum Brands on appropriate corrective actions, such as a recall of this model

¹This report was removed from the database on May 21, 2026. CPSC, [SaferProducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov), Report Number: 20260116-C1A14-2147324493 (Report date: Jan., 16, 2026) (previously online at: www.saferproducts.gov/PublicSearch/Detail?ReportId=5843522).

² Black & Decker Instruction Manual, "Parts Identification," (online at: www.blackanddecker.ae/GLOBALBOM/B5/BX275/1/Instruction_Manual/EN/BX275_BX225_BX205_MEA.pdf).

³ FDA, Letter to Retailers and Distributors of Cookware (Dec. 12, 2024) (online at: www.fda.gov/food/environmental-contaminants-food/letter-retailers-and-distributors-cookware).

and any other models that may contain elevated levels of lead. We urge the agency to do everything possible to reach consumers who have an affected product, and we stand ready to assist.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Oriene Shin
Manager, Safety Advocacy

Gabe Knight
Senior Policy Analyst, Safety

cc: Acting Chairman Peter A. Feldman
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Reference images:
Black& Decker PowerCrush, model number BL1230



Incident Report Details

Attachments (4)

Images



Report Summary

A (1 Year & I MO) child's elevated blood lead level investigation was performed. The child's parent used electric blender every day to make their baby food. An external component of the blender was made of lead & was shedding lead dust which contaminated the food.

Product Details

Product Description: Blender with glass, plastic, and metal components

Manufacturer/Importer/Private Labeler Name: Spectrum Brands, Inc.

Brand Name: Black & Decker

Model Name or Number: BL1230

Serial Number:

UPC Code:

SKU#:

Date Manufactured:

Retailer:

Retailer State:

Purchase Date:

Product Category: Kitchen

Product Type: Appliances

Product Code: Electric Blenders (215)

Incident Details

Incident Description: A childhood elevated blood lead level investigation was performed that revealed no lead hazards in the child's environment except for a blender, which their parent used every day to make their baby food. The local health department lead risk assessor found that an external component of the blender was made of lead and was shedding lead dust. Further testing revealed that this lead dust was contaminating the food processed by the blender (570, 1760, and 3060 ppb using different blades/foods - for reference, the FDA action level for industry is 10 ppb lead in fruits, vegetables, and mixtures and 20 ppb lead in root vegetables). I can provide the full risk assessment report and lab results upon request. The county health department still has the blender on hand should it be needed for additional testing. Blender details: Black & Decker, Empower Brands LLC, model BL1230. Contact details for the family affected and the local health department can be provided upon request.

Incident Date: 10/3/2025

Incident Location: Home/Apartment/Condominium