

SCAMS REPORT
MILTON TOWNSHIP S.A.L.T. COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 11, 2021 (VIRTUAL)

Submitted by Arnold H. Shifrin

“Anti-Aging” Cosmetics Scam

Health and beauty products are widely accessible to consumers via the internet. Recently, there has been an increase in the volume of counterfeit skin care products arriving in the United States that are marketed to seniors. These products claim to have “anti-aging” properties and are promoted as treatments for removing age spots, freckles, blemishes, wrinkles, or simply as products to make seniors look and feel better. They’re available as creams, lotions, oils, serums, and moisturizers. Many of the products have been found to contain adulterants that are either inert or potentially dangerous. Since most counterfeiters of these products are based outside the United States, it’s unlikely they’ll be apprehended and prosecuted for their crimes.

Dangerous ingredients often found in fraudulent “anti-aging” cosmetics:

- arsenic
- aluminum
- beryllium
- cadmium
- pathogenic bacteria

Conditions caused by these dangerous ingredients:

- cancer
- psoriasis
- acne
- rashes
- eye infections

How to protect yourself from using fraudulent “anti-aging” cosmetics:

- Be aware of advertisements and mailings touting “sudden breakthroughs” or “secret formulas.” The old adage, “*If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is...*” applies to anti-aging products. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the safety and effectiveness of cosmetic products under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. When a new “anti-aging” product with unique properties is approved by the agency, the public can expect the news to be widely covered in the media.
- Thoroughly investigate a product before using it. An online search of the ingredients will help confirm that the product is safe and effective.
- Ask your physician any questions you have about a product or its components.
- Be cautious of products that claim to be completely safe and without side effects.
- Be wary of products that claim to cure or relieve the symptoms of a wide variety of unrelated conditions.
- Contact the Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.org) to see if other consumers have filed complaints about a product or its seller.
- Be cautious of celebrity endorsements and testimonials, as they may not be authentic.
- Consult your physician or pharmacist before using “anti-aging” dietary supplements. These substances may interact with prescription medications you are currently taking and adversely affect your health.

[Resource: FBI]