

Food Preparation and Malachite Green Paper Towels

The Food Standards Agency has informed Local Authorities regarding the possible incorrect use of paper towels containing malachite green.

The Food Standards Agency is concerned that malachite green if used in food preparation areas, may indirectly contaminate food. Malachite green is considered to be a potential genotoxic carcinogen and as such there would be no safe level of intake. A previous case of food contamination through misuse has been identified, where the paper towels were used to wrap raw fish overnight in a retail establishment. Therefore, contamination through misuse of this product is possible. The paper towels concerned are coloured green, but it does not follow that all green paper contains malachite green.

Hence Rochford District Council would advise that all establishments using green coloured paper to check that the product is being used according to the manufacturer's instructions. If the product is being used in a food preparation area and there is uncertainty about whether it contains malachite green, then users should obtain information from the manufacturer.