

# FOOD PACKAGING...USE OF STARCHES & OTHER COMPOUNDS

From national trade associations, including: American Meat Institute, Grocery Manufacturers of America, International Dairy Foods Association, National Chicken Council, National Food Processors Association, National Turkey Federation, Snack Food Association. Manufacturers routinely "dust" packaging materials with food grade starches to prevent them from sticking together. In use for more than 25 years, this starch is approved by U.S. Dept of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration. In processing plants, the packaging materials can become tacky and stick to production lines. To prevent this, processors often dust lines with cornstarch, baking soda, etc. Like the dusting of packaging above, this practice is also approved by regulatory agencies. Occasionally, a trace amount of white powder may remain on a product after it has been packaged.

## Products that Could Appear to Have Powder on the Outside

### Grocery:

- Baby food cereal
- Baby powders and talcum powders
- Baking powder
- Baking soda
- Boxed dinners
- Boxed potatoes
- Bread crumbs and coatings
- Cake and other bake mixes
- Cat litter – baking soda added or dust
- Cocoa products
- Coffee creamers
- Croutons
- Flour products
- Gelatin and pudding products
- Oatmeal canisters
- Pancake mixes
- Pasta
- Powdered baby formula
- Powdered carpet deodorizers
- Powdered cleansers
- Powdered drink mixes
- Powdered laundry detergents, dish detergents and bleaches
- Powdered milk
- Protein powder and meal replacement powder containers
- Rice
- Rice side dishes (from the flavor packet)
- Soup and meal cups
- Spices/salts
- Stuffing
- Sugar products, especially confectioner sugar
- Wool scouring pads

### Bulk:

- Almonds – roasted, salted
- Cocktail peanuts – roasted, salted
- Coconut – unsweetened no salt
- Coconut flakes
- Company name-brand snack mix
- Flour (several varieties)
- Gummies – some varieties
- Honey roasted cashews
- Honey roasted peanuts
- Honey roasted sunflower seeds
- Jellies – several varieties
- Loose pretzels
- Nuts
- Oat bran – fine
- Peanut mix
- Quick oats
- Rice (several varieties)
- Rolled oats
- Sesame seeds hulled
- Snack mixes – salted and with coconut
- Spanish peanuts
- Sunflower seeds – roasted, salted
- Toasted corn nuts

### Dairy:

- Grated cheese
- Pepperoni (salt will occasionally be visible on the casing)
- Shredded cheese (anti-caking agent)

### Frozen:

- Cookie dough
- Pie shells
- Pasta
- Pizza
- Pizza dough and bread dough
- Tiramisu

### Dairy/Frozen:

- Activated dry yeast
- Corn tortillas
- Flour tortillas
- Fresh pasta
- Plastic gallons of milk with dried milk residue around the caps
- Refrigerated bagels
- Refrigerated pizza

### Deli/Prepared:

- Pizza
- Salami

### General Merchandise:

- Auto air fresheners
- Baby powder
- Bath powder
- Broken light bulbs
- Brooms & cleaning brushes
- Chalk
- Dry pool chemicals
- Easter eggs
- Epsom salt
- Face powder
- Flocking and flaking
- Foot powder
- Foot soap
- Greeting cards
- Latex balloons
- Latex gloves
- Latex products
- Magazines
- Mothballs
- Newspapers
- Packing material
- Padded mailing envelopes
- Paper products
- Plant food packets
- Plastic housewares packing
- Powdered sprays
- Powder gelatin/pectin
- Puzzle dust
- Sachets
- Seeds
- Silica gel packs
- Talcum powder

### Laytex Gloves:

The powder in Laytex products is calcium carbonate and cornstarch. It is used as an aid in putting the gloves on (known as donning) and also as an anti-tack agent for the latex surface. Some powder will rub off onto hands or other surfaces. All powdered gloves have powder residue on them.