



Washington
State
Department
of Health

🌐 English ▼

Organic walnuts linked to E. coli infections in Washington, California

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Contact: [DOH Communications](#)

People should stop eating and throw away recalled walnuts

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Health (DOH), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advise people to stop eating organic walnut halves and pieces sold in bulk at [several stores in Washington](#) because of possible contamination with *E. coli* bacteria.

At least 12 people in California and Washington state have been infected with *E. coli* bacteria after eating bulk organic walnut halves and pieces. Six of those people live in Washington. No one has died from their infection.

What to do:

- If you bought organic walnut halves and pieces from bulk containers, check the list of stores on the [DOH Food Recalls and Alerts website](#) to see if the walnuts might be part of the recall. Stores may repackage bulk walnuts into plastic clamshells or bags.
- Ask the store where you purchased your walnuts if they sold recalled walnuts if you are not sure.
- Stop eating and discard recalled walnuts, including those stored in your refrigerator or freezer. If you can't tell if your walnuts are part of the recall, it's safer not to eat them.
- Wash containers used to store the recalled walnuts and any surface they may have touched with hot soapy water or a dishwasher
- Review [DOH Food Safety Tips](#) to learn about ways to protect yourself and others from foodborne illness.

E. coli bacteria can cause severe or even life-threatening infections, usually starting three or four days after eating or drinking something contaminated. Symptoms include diarrhea (which is often bloody), severe abdominal pain, and vomiting. Most people get better in five to seven days, but children 5 years or younger are at higher risk of severe illness.

Contact your healthcare provider if you ate a food that contains the recalled walnuts and develop symptoms of *E. coli* infection.

For more information visit:

- [FDA: Outbreak Investigation of Bulk Organic Walnuts](#)
- [Gibson Farms Organic Walnuts Recall Notice](#)
- [CDC Food Safety Alert](#)

- [DOH Foodborne Outbreak website](#)
- [DOH Food Recalls and Safety Alerts](#)
- [DOH E. Coli website](#)

The [DOH website](#) is your source for a healthy dose of information. [Find us on Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [follow us on X \(formerly Twitter\)](#). Sign up for the DOH blog, [Public Health Connection](#).

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