

March 2, 2026

To: Ventura County Retailers selling Kratom

Subject: Reminder Notice - the sale of Kratom and 7-OH products is illegal

Dear Retailer,

The Ventura County Environmental Health Division (EHD) and Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) are notifying local tobacco retailers and food facilities that the sale and marketing of kratom and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) products for consumption is **illegal** in California. This reminder notice aligns with recent California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) communications.

- Letters sent to retailers on January 9, 2026, titled "[Prohibition on the Sale of Kratom and 7-OH Products](#)"
- Press Release on January 15, 2026, to ABC Licensees Concerning Illegal Kratom, 7-OH Products, [Warning to ABC Licensees Concerning Illegal Kratom, 7-OH Products](#),
- Press Release on , January 16, 2026 CDPH Warns Retailers and Public About the Dangers of Kratom-derived Products and 7-OH, [CDPH Warns Retailers and Public About the Dangers of Kratom-derived Products and 7-OH](#)
- Health Advisory sent to Healthcare providers in January 2026, titled "Kratom and 7-OH may lead to addiction, serious harm, overdose, or death".

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined that kratom and 7-OH, a naturally occurring alkaloid in the kratom plant, are not approved as food additives, food products, dietary supplements, or drug products. Consumption of kratom-derived products and 7-OH may result in addiction, serious harm, overdose, and death.

Any product containing kratom or 7-OH is considered adulterated and illegal to sell for consumption. Under the Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, CDPH has statewide authority to embargo, seize, and remove these products. VCPH and EHD are conducting site visit surveys of retail stores in the next couple of months to confirm compliance with state law and verify that these products are no longer being sold in our county.

Retail facilities displaying or selling kratom-derived products or 7-OH will be reported to CDPH's Food and Drug Branch and to the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Retailers who do not comply with California law may be subject to legal action and enforcement measures, including product seizure and administrative penalties. You are hereby strongly encouraged to:

- Immediately review your store's inventory of all products containing kratom or 7-OH; and,
- Discontinue the sale of such products and remove them from the premises.

For more information about kratom and 7-OH, visit CDPH's website: [About Kratom](#), and/or VCPH's website: [Kratom: What You Need to Know](#). If you have any questions about this letter, please contact:

Food Facilities: Environmental Health Division: (805) 654-2813
Tobacco Retailers: Ventura County Public Health: 805-201-7867
Email: Healtheducation@Venturacounty.gov



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cc. CDPH – Food and Drug Branch
cc. California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control