

**R.Twining & Co. Ltd**

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Twining's response to Food Standards Agency survey of benzene in soft drinks.

“We have recently become aware of the issue where Vitamin C (ascorbic acid) and the preservative sodium benzoate can interact to form a very small amount of benzene in certain soft drink products.

Following independent testing, Twining's Iced Teas have been found to comply with the relevant guidance issued by the Food Standards Agency and so are not a cause for concern.

Only our ready-to-drink iced teas are affected. No other products from Twining's are affected.

However, as a responsible manufacturer we do recognise that people may be worried about this issue, and we have already taken immediate steps to reformulate our Iced Teas in order to avoid the combination of Vitamin C (ascorbic acid) and sodium benzoate.

Further information is available on our website ([www.twining.com/press\\_center.asp](http://www.twining.com/press_center.asp)) or call our Careline 0845 6019612 (all calls charged at local rate, excluding Republic of Ireland).



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Questions and Answers

Q: Is there a health risk with benzene and Iced Tea?

A: No, following independent testing, Twinings Iced Teas have been found to comply with the relevant guidance issued by the FSA and so are not a cause for concern.

Q: Should I be worried about Iced Teas?

A: All Twinings Iced Teas are OK, and not considered a cause for concern by the FSA.

Q: Should we return bottles of Iced Tea?

A: No, there is no need to return your bottles. However if you feel concerned please contact our Careline 0845 6019612.

Q: Are any other Twinings products affected?

A: No.

Q: If you knew about this issue why didn't you reformulate sooner?

A: Despite there being no health risk we took immediate action to reformulate as soon as we became aware of the issue.

Q: Is there a particular danger for children?

A: Our advice is the same for children as for adults.

Q: Are your 250ml cartons of Iced Tea affected?

A: We no longer sell these in the UK but they would not be affected in any case because they do not contain the preservative sodium benzoate.

