

## Kane County Health Department

September 18, 2014 Contact: Tom Schlueter (630) 444-3098 630-417-9129 (cell) www.kanehealth.com

## Gel Spice issues voluntary recall of Fresh Finds Ground Black Pepper

The Kane County Health Department is advising residents that the Gel Spice Company, Inc., of Bayonne, NJ, is issuing a voluntary recall notice for Fresh Finds-Ground Black Pepper, 3.53 oz, plastic jars, because it has the possibility to be contaminated with *Salmonella*.

The product was distributed via Big Lots Stores, Inc. nationwide, including Illinois, but there have been no reported illnesses related to this product.

Salmonella is an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with Salmonella often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with Salmonella can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections (i.e., infected aneurysms), endocarditis and arthritis.

The recall was issued as the result of sampling by the FDA which revealed that the finished products contained the bacteria.

A photo of the product's label is available by clicking <u>here</u>. Residents who have the product in their homes should dispose of it. Consumers with questions may call the company at 718-702-1532.

# # #