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China's poor treated to fake rice made from plastic: report

By [David Edwards](#)

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China's history with food safety is a rocky one, but even in the annals of robbery and abuse, this will go down in infamy.

Various reports in Singapore media have said that Chinese companies are mass producing fake rice made, in part, out of plastic, [according to one online publication Very Vietnam](#)^[1].

The "rice" is made by mixing potatoes, sweet potatoes and plastic. The potatoes are first formed into the shape of rice grains. Industrial synthetic resins are then added to the mix. The rice reportedly stays hard even after being cooked.

The Korean-language *Weekly Hong Kong* reported that the fake rice is being sold in the Chinese town of Taiyuan, in Shaanxi province.

"A Chinese Restaurant Association official said that eating three bowls of this fake rice would be like eating one plastic bag. Due to the seriousness of the matter, he added that there would be an investigation of factories alleged to be producing the rice," Very Vietnam noted.

Unfortunately, it's not the first time fake rice has been sold in China, [according to China's Global Times](#) ^[2].

Previously, a company in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province had added flavoring to ordinary rice to synthesize "Wuchang rice," which is regarded to be the best rice in the country.

About 300,000 people were injured and at least six infants died in 2008 when Chinese milk and infant formula was found to be [adulterated with melamine](#) ^[3], which was thought to help the milk pass nutrition tests.

Later that year, melamine [was also discovered](#) ^[4] in Chinese eggs.

URL to article:

<http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2011/02/08/report-china-fake-rice-plastic/>

URLs in this post:

[1] according to one online publication Very Vietnam:

<http://veryvietnam.com/2011-01-22/china-makes-fake-rice-from-plastic-vietnam-reacts/>

[2] according to China's Global Times:

<http://china.globaltimes.cn/society/2010-07/551672.html>

[3] adulterated with melamine:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/dec/02/china>

[4] was also discovered:

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2008-11/01/content_7164471.htm

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