

# Are animal ingredients included in white sugar?

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Bone char, which is used to process sugar, is made from the bones of cattle from Afghanistan, Argentina, India, and Pakistan. The bones are sold to traders in Scotland, Egypt, and Brazil who then sell them back to the U.S. sugar industry. The European Union and the USDA heavily regulate the use of bone char. Only countries that are deemed BSE-free can sell the bones of their cattle for this process. Bone char—often referred to as natural carbon—is widely used by the sugar industry as a decolorizing filter, which allows the sugar cane to achieve its desirable white color. Other types of filters involve granular carbon or an ion-exchange system rather than bone char.

Bone char is also used in other types of sugar. Brown sugar is created by adding molasses to refined sugar, so companies that use bone char in the production of their regular sugar also use it in the production of their brown sugar. Confectioner's sugar—refined sugar mixed with cornstarch—made by these companies also involves the use of bone char. Fructose may, but does not typically, involve a bone-char filter. Supermarket brands of sugar (e.g., Giant, Townhouse, etc.) obtain their sugar from several different refineries, making it impossible to know whether it has been filtered with bone char.

If you want to avoid all refined sugars, we recommend alternatives such as Sucanat and turbinado sugar, which are not filtered with bone char. Additionally, beet sugar—though normally refined—never involves the use of bone char and Edward & Sons Trading Company has developed a vegan confectioner's sugar which should be available in health food stores soon.

It would be virtually impossible for PETA to maintain information on the refining process used for the sugar in every product. We encourage you to contact companies directly to ask about the source of their sugar.

The following companies **do not** use bone-char filters:

## **Michigan Sugar Company**

2600 S. Euclid Ave.  
Bay City, MI 48706  
Tel.: 989.686.0161  
Fax: 989.671.3695  
Web: [www.michigansugar.com](http://www.michigansugar.com)

## **Florida Crystals Corporation**

P.O. Box 471  
West Palm Beach, FL 33480  
Tel.: 877-835-2828  
Fax: 516-366-5200  
Web: [www.floridacrystals.com](http://www.floridacrystals.com)

**SuperValu**

SUPERVALU Corporate Headquarters  
East View Innovation Center  
7075 Flying Cloud Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344  
Tel.: 952-828-4000  
Web.: [www.supervalu.ie/](http://www.supervalu.ie/)

**Western Sugar**

Western Sugar is a subsidiary of Tate & Lyle (formerly Domino sugar) which does use bone-char filters. However, Western Sugar makes only beet sugar, which does not use bone-char filters.

7555 E. Hampton Ave., Ste. 600  
Denver, CO 80210  
Tel.: 303-830-3939  
Fax: 303-830-3941  
Web: [www.westernsugar.com](http://www.westernsugar.com)

**Wholesome!**

14141 Southwest Freeway, Suite 160  
Sugar Land, TX 77478  
Tel.: 800-680-1896  
Web.: [www.WholesomeSweet.com](http://www.WholesomeSweet.com)

The following companies **do use** bone-char filters. Contact them and encourage them to adopt the use of humane alternatives to bone-char filters:

**C&H Sugar Company**

2300 Contra Costa Blvd., Ste. 600  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
Tel.: 925-688-1731  
Fax: 925-822-1061  
E-Mail: [consumer.affairs@chsugar.com](mailto:consumer.affairs@chsugar.com)  
Web: [www.chsugar.com](http://www.chsugar.com)

**Savannah Foods**

P.O. Box 335  
Savannah, GA 31402  
Tel.: 912-234-1261

**Tate & Lyle North American Sugars Inc. (formerly Domino Sugar)**

1100 Key Hwy. W.  
Baltimore, MD 21230  
Tel.: 1-800-638-1590  
Fax: 410-783-8640

**Imperial Sugar**

P.O. Box 9

Sugarland, TX 77487

Tel.: 1-800-727-8427

Web: [www.imperialsugar.com](http://www.imperialsugar.com)

**Refined Sugars Inc.**

1 Federal St.

Yonkers, NY 10702

Tel.: 914-963-2400

Fax: 914-963-1030