

IDENTIFYING COUNTERFEIT ITEMS QUICK TIPS

1. **Look for the Mark:** A system of standards exists for the testing and certification of products. Be wary of electrical, mechanical, plumbing, gas or other standardized products if they do not have a certification mark from a recognized NRTL.
2. **Inspect the Mark:** Legitimate certification marks have distinctive graphic features that are often not accurately reproduced by counterfeiters.
 - For information and a current list of NRTLs or their marks visit OSHA's website: <http://www.osha.gov/dts/otpca/nrtl/index.html>
3. **Poor Spelling:** Look for misspellings and unclear printing on packaging, products, labels or instructions.
4. **Inferior packaging:** Counterfeit packaging often has poor design or shows only partial illustrations.
 - Foreign newspapers used as packaging, questionable or meaningless markings, and wrong language, or spelling errors.
5. **Missing items:** Check for missing product information or discrepancies between package contents and the items description on the package.
 - Missing instructions, screws, and terminals.
6. **Know your source:** Buy only from reputable, well-known distributors or retailers.
7. **Significantly lower pricing:** This could mean it's counterfeit, so check it closely.
8. **Cheap production:** If the "look and feel" is too tight and flimsy, it might just be a fake.
 - Signs of used appearance, evidence of tampering/repairs, broken seals, scratches, obvious wear, corrosion, pitting, components with no certification markings, different material types, finishes and/or inconsistent colors.