



Tips to Avoid Counterfeit Masks*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidance, [Counterfeit Respirators / Misrepresentation of NIOSH-Approval](#), to help healthcare professionals avoid buying counterfeit masks. This page includes information on how to identify a NIOSH-approved respirator, and also a link to NIOSH Certified Equipment List and a NIOSH Trusted Source page.

See the ADA's [mask comparison chart](#) and [interim guidance on PPE](#).

 <p>Tips for spotting suspicious websites and/or marketplaces before you buy</p>	 <p>Signs that a mask may be counterfeit</p>
<p>Website tip-offs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary email contact uses a free email service • Presence of typos, bad grammar and other errors • Contains broken links • Site is unfinished and temporary “dummy” text is still present <p>Third-party marketplace red flags:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of terms like “legitimate” and “genuine” • Customer feedback that seems suspicious • Inconsistency in the type of products sold • Prices that are too good to be true • During times of shortage, claiming “unlimited stock” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of, or misspelling of NIOSH in the marking • Claiming approval for use by children • Presence of decorative add-ons • Lack of NIOSH approval (TC) number on the N95 or headband • Lack of any type of marking on the N95 • N95 has ear loops instead of headband

*The CDC uses the term "respirators" in relation to N95, KN95, etc., whereas the ADA uses the term "masks."

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