

# Avoiding Counterfeit Respirators

Effective respiratory protection is critical to an effective response to COVID-19.

Here are some suggestions to help avoid purchasing counterfeit versions of 3M Respiratory Protection products.

3M products are subject to stringent quality control measures—if it looks wrong, it probably is

3M has strict quality standards, and therefore respirators that have issues such as missing or detached straps, blocked valves, faded or grainy packaging, or misspelled words are likely not authentic 3M respirators.

3M respirators should only be sold in 3M packaging, with model-specific user instructions included

Counterfeit products are often sold without packaging, or in sub-standard packaging that does not match the original manufacturer's packaging, and often do not contain important user instructions. Proper packaging ensures that our products remain clean and safe for the end user. Our user instructions ensure that end users understand how to properly use our products.

You can investigate further if your 3M respirator appears to have been made or packaged for another country

3M personal protective equipment is intended, labeled, packaged, and certified to meet the requirements of the countries in which 3M sells it. Those requirements differ around the world, including requirements related to respirator performance, local language, and local certification and approval for sale. If a 3M respirator has packaging or labeling in another language, or appears to have been made in another country, please visit the following links:

[3M and FEMA](#) | [International Packaging](#)

3M recommends purchasing our products only from a 3M authorized distributor or dealer

Purchasing 3M respiratory protection products from 3M authorized distributors or dealers provides the greatest assurance that you will receive authentic 3M products.

Certain 3M respirator packaging includes 3M Safe Guard anti-counterfeit authentication technology

Products featuring 3M Safe Guard anti-counterfeit authentication technology can be validated online or via our 3M Safe Guard mobile application.

To see which 3M respirator products feature this technology, visit the 3M Safe Guard website by going to [safeguard.3m.com](https://safeguard.3m.com)

3M filtering facepiece respirators should not be sold individually (loose, outside 3M packaging), and beware of bulk packaging

Counterfeit respirators are often offered as loose, single pieces, or in bulk quantities without 3M's usual high-quality shipper cartons and user instructions. Neither 3M, nor its authorized distributors and dealers, sell 3M's filtering facepiece respirators as loose individual units or in bulk without 3M packaging and user instructions.

## Additional Links

[3M Disposable Respirators](#) | [Quick Reference Guide](#)

**If you suspect fraud or counterfeiting contact 3M immediately.**

Contact the 3M Fraud Hotline at 1 (800) 426-8688 or on the web at [go.3m.com/covidfraud](https://go.3m.com/covidfraud).