

# Important Facts

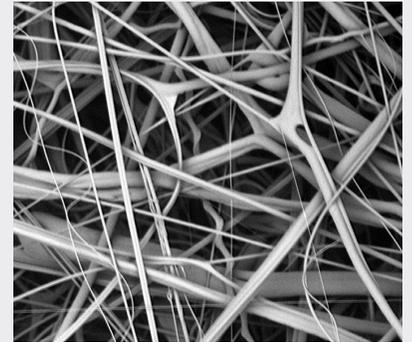
# About Counterfeit Respirators

The best way to avoid counterfeit respirators is to purchase 3M respirators from 3M authorized distributors. If you have any question whether respirators you've purchased or are thinking about purchasing are authentic, 3M is here to help. Contact the 3M Fraud Hotline at 1 (800) 426-8688 or on the web at [go.3M.com/covidfraud](https://go.3M.com/covidfraud).

## How 3M N95 Respirators Work

Don't assume you can tell how well a respirator works by looking at it, or that a counterfeit respirator could substitute. 3M respirators are designed to be easy to use but the science and quality manufacturing that makes them effective is not. Don't endanger yourself or your staff by making that mistake.

3M filtering facepiece respirators (FFR), such as N95s, are tight fitting respirators that contain advanced filter material and are designed to form a seal with the wearer's face, so inhaled air passes through the filter (instead of going around the edges). 3M FFRs use proprietary Advanced Electrostatic Media (AEM) to capture particles. 3M's unique manufacturing process injects an electrostatic charge into these AEM microfibers, which are arranged in an open formation, allowing for easier passage of air while also enhancing the capture of airborne particles. 3M FFRs are also specifically designed to seal to the wearer's face – as fit and seal are critical to respirator performance.



Enlarged image of 3M FFR Filter Media

## 3M N95 Respirators Are Rigorously Tested and Carefully Manufactured

3M N95s are tested on an ongoing basis to meet minimum filtration efficiency requirements and other performance criteria specified in applicable government regulations. In the U.S., N95 respirators must meet test criteria stated in the Code of Federal Regulations (42 CFR Part 84), including filter efficiency test criteria employed by NIOSH.

3M has strict quality controls and manufacturing standards to help ensure the consistent high performance of 3M respirators. 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.

## Beware and Steer Clear of Counterfeit Respirators

Counterfeit respirators are made by criminals trying to deceive customers. These counterfeits do not come from 3M and are not made using 3M's robust quality controls. Counterfeit respirators are not tested and approved like authentic 3M respirators. Instead, counterfeit respirators are made by unknown fraudsters, using unknown processes and materials, with unknown or nonexistent quality controls. As a result, counterfeit respirators cannot be trusted and should not be purchased or used.

According to [Steve Francis, Director of the U.S. National Intellectual Property Rights Center](#), counterfeit respirators are "extremely dangerous, they're providing a false sense of security to our first line responders, to American consumers. I can't stress how important it is to ensure we have the legitimate 3M N95 [respirators] that are being deployed to our first responders."

The [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) have similarly warned that, "Counterfeit respirators are products that are falsely marketed and sold as being NIOSH-approved and may not be capable of providing appropriate respiratory protection to workers."

3M recommends purchasing 3M respirators from 3M authorized distributors, which will increase the likelihood of receiving authentic 3M products. 3M does not recommend purchasing respirators from unknown sellers on multi-party internet e-commerce platforms. Sellers of counterfeit respirators use fake 3M logos and try to pass their masks off as authentic 3M respirators. 3M respirators are sold in 3M packaging, with model-specific user instructions accompanying the product. [Here are some tips to help avoid counterfeit products.](#)

**Remember counterfeit respirators do not come from 3M's supply chain and are not manufactured using 3M's robust quality controls. They cannot be trusted to provide respiratory protection.**