



Board of Pharmacy

Learn How to Detect Counterfeit Medications

In order to help protect Ohio's drug supply, the Ohio Board of Pharmacy wants to remind licensees about the following ways to detect counterfeit drugs:

Inspect packaging - Look for inconsistencies in packaging, such as misspellings, fonts, or incorrect logos. Genuine drugs typically have well designed, high-quality packaging.

Verify labels - Ensure that the drug's label, including the name, manufacturer, and expiration dates, match the official information from the manufacturer.

Inspect visual appearance - Compare the drug's appearance to a known genuine product. Compare size, shape, and color. Counterfeit drugs often will have noticeable differences.

Authentication - Some drugs may come with security features like holograms, QR codes, or barcodes that could be used to verify the validity of the drug.

Conduct chemical testing - Laboratory tests can identify discrepancies in the composition of the drug compared to a genuine product.

Purchase from reliable sources - Always buy medications from licensed and trusted distributors. Avoid buying from unverified online sources. Be wary of deeply discounted products as this could be a ruse to sell counterfeit products.

Consult a healthcare professional - If you have doubts about the validity of a drug, consult with a pharmacist, healthcare provider, or contact the manufacturer.

If you believe that you were sold or dispensed counterfeit prescription medications, take the following steps:

- Do not use or distribute the suspected medications.
- Segregate the drugs from any active drug stock.
- Do not dispose of the drugs, as they may be needed for further testing or verification.

Additionally, contact the Ohio Board of Pharmacy at 614-466-4143 or file a complaint at www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Complaint.

For a printable pocket card containing this information, visit: www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/counterfeitpc.

REMINDER: Verify Your Seller

OAC [4729:5-3-04](#) requires a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs to verify a seller holds an appropriate license to sell dangerous drugs from the Ohio Board of Pharmacy. This must be done prior to an initial purchase of a dangerous drug (e.g., prescription medication) and verified annually if the terminal distributor continues to make purchases from that seller.



People call, text, and chat the 988 Lifeline to talk about a lot of emotional needs—not just thoughts of suicide. Whatever your reason, the #988Lifeline is there to help. There is hope.

Ohio Board of Pharmacy
Mike DeWine, *Governor* | **Steven W. Schierholt**, *Executive Director*

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