

FAKE ELECTRICAL GOODS



Fake electrical goods pose a threat to U.S. consumers. They include inferior batteries, wires, sockets, circuit breakers, timers, fuses, and lights. **These counterfeits are usually of inferior quality and pose the risk of fire and failure of the product—if not whole electrical systems.**

Other fake goods include the obvious: Footwear valued at a stunning \$100 million in value was seized by border and customs officials in 2009. Ninety-eight percent of this footwear came from China. Consumer electronic products—cell phones, cameras, music players, even computers—valued at more than \$38 million were also seized that year. Handbags, wallets, and backpacks rounded out the Top Three list of fake imported goods with a value of more than \$21.5 million. And these are just the products that were caught. **Other commonly faked consumer goods include clothes, watches, jewelry, and toys—whose shoddy construction and finishes may make them a danger to infants and children.**

The owners of copyrights, trademarks, and patents can take legal action against counterfeiters—when they know who they are—but that is an expensive option. Individual owners need to protect their rights, though, and should always secure their legal rights by:

- Copyrighting their creative products
- Applying for patents
- Registering their trademarks
- Putting proof of ownership on the product

Contractors should always:

- Thoroughly inspect the goods they purchase and use
- Look for copyright, patent, and trademark information
- Look for a recognizable logo that is precisely rendered

A trained eye will frequently detect a fake. An inspection can go a long way toward eliminating a product from the counterfeit supply chain.



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(report potential counterfeit Canon products or sources)