

# KNOW THE RISKS

Buying fake goods might seem like a good idea at first. After all, who doesn't like to score a great deal on electronics, makeup, or a trendy pair of sneakers? But when you take a closer look, you'll see that you didn't score anything—you struck out.

Fake products, called counterfeits, are cheap imitations of trusted brands. Fakes are often poorly constructed, usually don't work well, can even be hazardous to your health, and don't last as long. That video game controller you bought for less could contain faulty wiring and even shock you—or worse. That makeup you bought could contain toxic ingredients such as rat poison or uric acid—which is found in urine! And those trendy sneakers on "sale" are likely to fall apart the first time you wear them. Clothing and shoes are the most commonly counterfeited items.

Real products are manufactured in safe environments. They are thoroughly researched for effectiveness and are repeatedly tested for quality and safety. Counterfeits are not.

## FIND THE FACTS

1. What are the risks of buying fake goods? Include at least two.

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2. What are the benefits of buying real products? Include at least two.

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3. Read "McGruff's Tip". Were you surprised by this fact? Why or why not?

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### MCGRUFF'S TIP

McGruff and Scruff here! Technology is a terrific tool for learning, keeping in touch, or just having fun! But did you know that fake electronics can be dangerous to your health? It's true.

Faulty electronics cause more than 70 deaths and 350,000 serious injuries every year. Don't risk your health for a fake and dangerous knock-off—make sure you spend your hard-earned money on the real deal!

To find out more about the dangers of fake products, go to [nccpc.org/goforreal](https://nccpc.org/goforreal).

