



Jackson County Department of Public Health

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SAFE KIDS JACKSON COUNTY WARNS PUBLIC OF COUNTERFEIT CAR SEATS

In the past two weeks, our Child Passenger Seat Technicians have found three counterfeit car seats being used by parents in Jackson County. This is a major safety concern as these car seats may not protect your children in the event of a crash. These counterfeit car seats were either received as gifts and purchased from major online retailer websites that allow third party sellers, such as Amazon, eBay, or Temu, or at consignment sales.

Below are the issues with the counterfeit car seats we found:

- Made out of cheap plastic and not sturdy
- No chest clips
- Labels on seat did not have appropriate instructions or warning labels
- Harness was attached with a strap
- Did not list manufacturer or expiration date
- Made in China

Risks of Counterfeit Car Seats:

Counterfeit car seats are life threatening for child passengers, as they do not offer the same protections as car seats that meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. These seats are often made with cheaper materials that do not hold up in a crash, or are missing key safety features.

To be compliant in the U.S., all car seats must include the following:

- 5-point harness with straps that go over the hips and shoulders
- Chest clip
- Splitter plate behind the seat
- Labeling with specific weight and height limits
- Manufacturing label with name, model number, date of manufacture and/or expiration dates
- Registration card and manual

Tips on How to Spot the Red Flags of Counterfeit Car Seats:

1. Look for labels

- a. Manufacturing label with name, model number, date of manufacture and/or expiration dates, as well as weight and height limits
- b. Warning label with a yellow header that states: "This child restraint system conforms to all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards"
- c. Labels will be in both English and Spanish
- d. Look for spelling errors on labels



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- 2. Check for missing parts**
 - a. If the harness, chest clip, and splitter plate are missing, this is a counterfeit car seat
- 3. Make sure the manual and registration card are included**
 - a. Car Seats must be sold with a manual and registration card
- 4. Register your car seat**
 - a. Registering your car seat enables the manufacturer to alert you to any recalls
- 5. Exercise caution when buying from third-party sellers**
 - a. Understand the risks involved with buying from third-party sellers, as you are not able to verify the history of the car seat
 - b. Has the car seat been involved in any accidents?
 - c. Is the car seat expired, most car seats expire within 10 years of the manufacture date, but always check the label?

Next steps:

- Before purchasing a car seat, be sure to check the tips above.
- If you determine you have a counterfeit car seat, discontinue use immediately and contact the retailer to notify them that they sold a counterfeit car seat.
- We strongly recommend that car seats be purchased from manufacturer, retailers that are not third-party sellers.
- If you have any concerns or need assistance, contact a Certified Child Passenger Seat Technician near you.
 - In Jackson County, there are technicians at the Jackson County Department of Public Health, Balsam Fire Department, and Cashiers Fire Department.

Resources:

- <https://www.buckleupnc.org/choosing-using/>
- <https://ucsg.safekids.org/>
- <https://safekids.org/>



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Image: one of the identified counterfeit car seats found by Jackson County Child Passenger Safety Technician.

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