

If you think you've bought fake or stolen goods

There can be a risk when buying goods online from private sellers or pop up market stalls that the items could be stolen or fake (counterfeit.)

There can be hints that the trader may not be selling genuine items:

- the price of the item, for example buying a brand new designer item (handbag/ sunglasses etc...) at very a cheap price.
- bank transfer payments only
- time limits for the offer
- no trader information

Stolen goods

If you think the item is stolen you should take it to the police as soon as possible. Holding onto the item could be seen as you handling stolen goods.

Fake (counterfeit) goods

Counterfeit goods are usually poorly made, so may:

- not be as described
- not be of satisfactory quality
- they could present a health risk - such as sunglasses without any UV protection, perfumes that contain unknown liquids

When you buy goods you have rights if goods are not as describe. Trying to track traders down online or from market places can be difficult. You might risk ending up without the product you expected to receive and unable to get a refund.

You should report traders selling counterfeit items to your local Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice consumer service. For more information read 'If you think you've bought fake or stolen goods'

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/somethings-gone-wrong-with-a-purchase/if-you-think-youve-bought-stolen-goods/>

You can also get advice from the Citizens Advice consumer helpline: 03454 04 05 06 Welsh-speaking adviser: 03454 04 05 05