

Counterfeit Airbags

Air bags have been standard safety equipment in vehicles in the United States since 1998, and from 1987 to 2017, frontal air bags have saved 50,457 lives. Counterfeit air bags are a safety concern as they may not deploy during a crash or could possibly deploy dangerous debris or particles during a crash, which could increase the risk of injury for a driver or passengers.

To reduce the risk of obtaining a counterfeit air bag, Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) air bags should be purchased from a franchised vehicle manufacturer dealership (i.e., dealer) or OEM authorized repair facility when an air bag needs to be replaced. Additionally, a dealer can help to ensure that a replacement air bag does not have a safety recall. Caution should be used when buying replacement air bags from online marketplace sites or non-dealers as it can be difficult to know if an air bag is authentic or counterfeit.

If you suspect an air bag is unsafe (under a recall or counterfeit), do not buy it. If you are unsure if an installed replacement air bag is safe, call your nearest dealer and ask to have your vehicle inspected and have your air bag replaced if necessary.

If you suspect an air bag may be recalled or counterfeit (fake):

- Keep detailed records of where, when, and how the air bag was purchased and installed;

- Contact the vehicle manufacturer or dealer to schedule an inspection;
- If the air bag is recalled, have the dealer perform the free recall repair, and
- If the air bag is fake, get it replaced, and report it to [STOPfakes.gov](https://www.stopfakes.gov).

Suspected counterfeit motor vehicle parts can be reported to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Click the “Report a Problem” button on the top right of [NHTSA.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov) or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline (Toll-Free: 1-888-327-4236 | Hearing Impaired (TTY): 1-800-424-9153).

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website ([NHTSA.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov)) provides free information on vehicle recalls, including air bags.

[NHTSA.gov/recalls](https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls)
[NHTSA.gov/equipment/air-bags](https://www.nhtsa.gov/equipment/air-bags)



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