



Are you buying a fake?

Counterfeit Product Alert®

How to identify counterfeit Lithium Ion 18650 Batteries

Lithium Ion: 18650 Batteries



Product Information:

Edited: Nov 23, 2020

A Lithium Ion ("Li-Ion") 18650 cell ("battery") purchase may be more than you bargained for. Counterfeit and recycled 18650 Lithium Ion batteries have been identified in one death, and a number of injuries and fires.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, as of July 2016 there have been over 60 incidents in the United States where Lithium Ion batteries in hoverboards reportedly caught fire, destroying bedrooms and even entire homes, totaling over \$2 million in property damage.

270 air/airport incidents involving lithium battery fires and smoke, carried as cargo or baggage, have been recorded. Three major aircraft accidents were reported where lithium battery cargo shipments were implicated.

Although the shipping of Li-Ion batteries has been regulated by various authorities and companies, counterfeiters continue to ship illegitimate batteries to the U.S. for use by consumers, for use both legitimate and counterfeit products.

A quick online search of Amazon (AMZN), eBay, (EBAY) and Walmart (WLMT) will show thousands of suspect "18650" batteries, the Lithium-Ion battery frequently used in laptops, flashlights, cameras, battery packs, hoverboards, e-cigarettes and many other consumer devices.

Most of the listings highlight the energy capacity in milli-amp hours (mAh) of the battery being offered; typical listings vary from 2,000 mAh to a ridiculous 12,000 mAh. Many consumers will gravitate to the higher capacity batteries incorrectly believing they will gain the longest use. Unfortunately, many of these claims are unsubstantiated, misleading, or completely fraudulent.

Authentic Li-Ion 18650 batteries from legitimate manufacturers have capacities under 3800mAh. The space inside the case of every 18650 battery for the battery components is the same, and the capacity varies considerably depending on the current draw.

Consumers are spending good money for bad products in which the capacities may have been grossly overstated, and the dangers understated.

The use of Li-Ion batteries is also revealing a previously unrecognized hazardous condition -- electronic cigarette and battery explosions in the users face and pockets. No other consumer product places a battery with a known explosion hazard such as this in such close proximity to the human body.

A 2017 report by FEMA and the U.S. Fire Administration concludes that "Lithium-ion batteries should not be used in e-cigarettes. While the number of batteries that explode and catch fire is statistically small, the catastrophic nature of the injuries that can occur warrants the use of another battery technology for e-cigarettes."

[Send to a Friend](#) [Print](#)

Fakes Reported By Our Users:

seller or source	reports	last updated
Amazon	613	Dec 20, 2020
eBay	126	Jun 28, 2020
internet vendor	8	Mar 21, 2020
Newegg	5	Sep 25, 2020
Twitter	3	Aug 23, 2019
Walmart	119	Oct 10, 2020


[view reported fakes](#) | [report a fake](#)

How to Identify a Fake Product :

real

This Panasonic NCR18650BF Industrial Lithium Ion battery is rated at 3350mAh - the highest capacity in Panasonic's product line.

Don't risk your life to a fake.



click to enlarge

seller or source	reports	last updated
Wish	12	Nov 11, 2020
view reported fakes report a fake		

Warnings / Hazards:

Counterfeit and recycled Lithium Ion batteries have been identified in one death, and a number of injuries and fires.

Counterfeit products are not covered by warranty and may deliver sub-standard performance, safety and quality issues.

Recommended Action:

Li-ion batteries 4000 mAh and above are all fraudulent. Fraudulent batteries below 4000 mAh may be only a fraction of their claimed capacity.

Always buy from authorized retailers or directly from the manufacturer.

Immediately discontinue use of any suspected battery.

Recent News:

No news articles were found


Contact the Company:

No contact information has been provided for this company

Product Information:

Manufacturer: Lithium Ion
 Model Name: 18650 Batteries
 Model Number: 18650

real




This Tenergy 3.7V 2600mAh Lithium-Ion 18650 Flat Top Rechargeable Battery (MH48285) is UL Certified.

Counterfeiters are very good are creating deceptive products. Always check the manufacturer's website for model descriptions and capacity information.

[click to enlarge](#)

fake



These 9800mAh labeled batteries purchased on Amazon tested at just 800mAh - 1100mAh - quite a contrast to the stated claim.

The label on a fraudulent 18650 battery is meaningless.

[click to enlarge](#)

fake




Could you spot a counterfeit, fake, fraudulent or recycled 18650 Lithium Ion battery?

If you can't spot these, you may be putting your life, and those around you, in danger.

Buy authentic products directly from the manufacturer or authorized retailer.

[click to enlarge](#)

fake




Which one of these LG HG2 18650 batteries is fake? You can't tell just by looking at a battery. (#2 is fake)

If you want authentic, safe products, always buy directly from the manufacturer or authorized retailer. (Photo courtesy: BatteryBro.com)

[click to enlarge](#)

fake




The stated capacity is an immediate indicator of a fraudulent 18650 Lithium Ion 18650 battery.

The stated capacity here of 9800mAh is over double the capacity of any authentic 18650 Lithium Ion battery available.

[click to enlarge](#)

fake




Walmart allows anyone to list just about anything on its website - including fraudulent Lithium Ion 18650 batteries.

These batteries claim 9800mAh - double the capacity of any authentic manufacturer's battery. Don't risk a fire, injury or explosion.

[click to enlarge](#)

fake

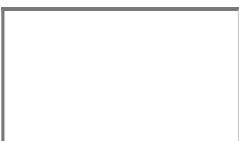


Don't be fooled by exaggerated capacity claims such as these 9900mAh 18650 batteries offered on Amazon for just \$2.75 each.

Don't risk a fire, explosion or injury to a fraudulent 18650 battery.

[click to enlarge](#)

fake



eBay is flooded with fraudulent 18650 Lithium Ion batteries with ridiculous capacity claims.

The stated claims are meaningless and



consumers risk getting an unvented battery that may cause a fire, explosion or injury.



fake

Law enforcement officers, military personnel, and emergency medical services personnel -- don't risk your life to save a few dollars.

These "9800mAh" Li-Ion batteries are offered for just \$1.80 each.

click to enlarge

Fake Lithium Ion 18650 Batteries Alert | The Counterfeit Report®

This page is maintained by
The Counterfeit Report

[Login](#) | [Media Guidelines](#) | [About](#) • [FAQ](#) | [Contact Us](#)



Spot fake Lithium Ion 18650 Batteries before you buy !

Follow

Did we help?

[Donate](#)

[terms & conditions](#) - [promotions](#) - [privacy policy](#)