FAKE FILTERS REAL PROBLEMS

FILTER IT OUT
FilterItOut.org

The average person should drink at least **eight 8-ounce glasses of water** every day to stay hydrated.

Yet **63 million people** in the U.S. have come into contact with unsafe drinking water.[1]

Before quenching your thirst, here's what you need to know about the water filter in your refrigerator.

Fake Filters are Flooding the Online Market

Trusted water filters ensure your water is clean and safe to drink.

Counterfeit water filters are commonly sold online through third-party sites disguised as genuine, certified products. They are hard to spot – even for experts.

To trick consumers, counterfeits:

- Copy branding
- Violate trademarks
- Use misleading and fraudulent labels
- Falsely claim they meet NSF/ANSI standards

AHAM
ASSOCIATION OF HOME APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS

AHAM conducted three tests to measure their performance against industry standards.

1 Lead Test

Lead is a toxic metal that can be harmful to human health even at low exposure levels.

CLAIM Removes lead from water

METHOD 32 filters were tested at 50%, 100%, 150%, 180% and 200% of their specified lifetime

STANDARD NSF/ANSI 53

RESULTS

Only 2 filters worked
through the full 6 month standard refrigerator lifetime the filter claimed

8 filters failed
to remove lead at half their standard refrigerator lifetime

All counterfeits failed
to perform at twice the standard refrigerator lifetime, which is notable since many consumers do not replace their filters on time

2 Cyst Test

Common water-borne microbiological cysts are parasites that can cause mild to severe gastrointestinal disease and illnesses.

CLAIM Reduces the presence of cysts (cryptosporidium parvum oocysts) by 99.95%

METHOD To allow for a margin of error, AHAM's testing only required a 90% reduction

STANDARD NSF/ANSI 53

RESULTS

7 of 8 counterfeit filters
tested failed to remove 90% of cysts

Findings contradict the labels
guaranteeing cyst removal

3 Extraction Test

Counterfeit filters may not be manufactured with the same quality food grade materials as trusted filters. Clean water sat in counterfeit filters for 3 periods of 24 hours, and ethanol, octane, arsenic and many other harmful compounds were found in the water when the testing concluded, consistent with chemicals found in cheap plastics.

CLAIM Does not introduce contaminants

METHOD Uncontaminated water was filtered through 46 separate counterfeit filters

STANDARD NSF/ANSI standards 42/53 4.1

RESULTS

During the extraction test,
10 separate compounds were introduced into clean sample water
by counterfeit filters

Fraudulent labeling
assured consumers that these filters were certified not to leach contaminants into household water above acceptable levels

Counterfeit filters do not meet the standards for safe, clean drinking water.

To protect your family's health, only purchase water filters from a certified refrigerator manufacturer.

Learn more about safe filters and where to find them at FilterItOut.org.

1 https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/08/14/63-million-americans-exposed-unsafe-drinking-water/564278001/