

Spotting Counterfeit Eclipse Glasses

Protect Your Eyes by Identifying Fake and Non-Compliant Products

The proliferation of counterfeit and non-compliant eclipse glasses poses a serious safety risk. This guide will help you identify red flags and verify authenticity before trusting your eyesight to any solar viewing product.



Critical Red Flags – Do NOT Use

No ISO marking or wrong ISO number

Legitimate glasses must have 'ISO 12312-2' printed on them. Watch for incorrect numbers like 'ISO 12312' or 'ISO 12312-2:2009'.

Missing or fake manufacturer information

No manufacturer name/address, or clearly fake company names like 'Safety First' or 'Sun Viewer Inc.' with no verifiable business presence.

You can see things other than the sun

If you can see household lamps, your phone screen, or anything other than the sun/very bright lights, they're not safe.

Visible light leaks around edges

Light bleeding around the frame indicates poor construction and compromised protection.

Scratches or punctures in filters

Any damage to the filter material makes them unsafe – discard immediately.

Suspiciously cheap or 'too good to be true' deals

Legitimate glasses cost \$1-5 per pair. Be wary of bulk lots at pennies per unit. How much is your eyesight worth?

Sold by unverified online marketplace sellers

Ebay, AliExpress, etc. are flooded with counterfeits. Only buy from verified manufacturers listed on ISO12312-2.com.

✓ Step-by-Step Verification Process

Step 1: Visual Inspection

- Check for ISO 12312-2 marking (correct number, not faded or sticker)
- Verify manufacturer name and physical address are printed
- Inspect filters for any scratches, punctures, or separation from frame
- Ensure lenses are securely attached with no gaps

Step 2: Darkness Test (Indoors)

Put the glasses on indoors. You should see absolutely nothing – complete darkness – unless you look at an extremely bright light source (like a bare bright LED or halogen bulb held close). Regular room lighting, phone screens, and TV screens should be completely invisible. If you can see your surroundings, the glasses are not safe.

Step 3: Verify the Manufacturer

Look up the manufacturer on:

- ISO12312-2.com verified manufacturers database
- The manufacturer's official website (ensure it's legitimate, not a clone)

Warning signs: No website, website created recently, poor English, no physical address, no phone number, or company cannot be found in business registries. ISO certificates from labs that seem suspect, modified, or small, unknown "labs".

Step 4: Check Packaging and Documentation

- Professional, well-printed packaging (not flimsy or home-printed)
- Instructions included in proper English and languages for the local country.
- Warnings and safety information clearly stated
- Contact information for the manufacturer
- Storage and cleaning instructions (if applicable)

🞭 Common Counterfeit Tactics

- **Fake ISO markings:** Printing 'ISO 12312-2' on non-compliant glasses. The marking alone doesn't guarantee safety.
- Cloned branding: Copying legitimate manufacturer names/logos. Always verify through official channels.
- Fraudulent test reports: Providing fake or altered lab reports. These are usually visually suspect.
- **Gray market imports:** Legitimate-looking glasses imported through unauthorized channels without quality control.

Safe Purchasing Guidelines

Trusted Sources:

- · Purchase directly from verified manufacturers
- Buy from astronomy clubs, planetariums, or science museums
- Verify seller legitimacy at iso12312-2.com before purchasing

Avoid:

- Random Amazon/eBay sellers with no history
- Street vendors or pop-up stands
- Unfamiliar websites without verifiable business information
- Sellers who can't provide test reports or certification documentation
- Any deal that seems too good to be true



If You Suspect Counterfeits

If you've purchased glasses you suspect are counterfeit:

- Do not use them discard safely
- Report to the seller and request a refund
- Report to marketplace (Amazon, eBay, etc.)
- Share information at iso12312-2.com to warn others
- Contact the legitimate manufacturer whose brand was copied

Remember: When in doubt, throw it out. Your eyesight is not worth the risk. Purchase new glasses from verified sources rather than trusting questionable products.

For an up-to-date list of verified manufacturers and to report counterfeit products, visit iso12312-2.com