

Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association

Counterfeit Money Detection

There has been an increase in reports of counterfeit money being circulated throughout Wisconsin. According to law enforcement reports, this money has been passed at both retail establishments and through private transactions (i.e. rummage sales). Many times, these criminals will target businesses at peak times, hoping that the employee will not look closely at the currency.

Below are some tips from the US Secret Service on how to detect counterfeit currency.

Portrait

The genuine portrait appears lifelike and stands out distinctly from the background. The counterfeit portrait is usually lifeless and flat. Details merge into the background which is often too dark or mottled.



Federal Reserve and Treasury Seals

On a genuine bill, the saw-tooth points of the Federal Reserve and Treasury seals are clear, distinct, and sharp. The counterfeit seals may have uneven, blunt, or broken saw-tooth points.



Border

The fine lines in the border of a genuine bill are clear and unbroken. On the counterfeit, the lines in the outer margin and scrollwork may be blurred and indistinct.



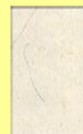
Serial Numbers

Genuine serial numbers have a distinctive style and are evenly spaced. The serial numbers are printed in the same ink color as the Treasury Seal. On a counterfeit, the serial numbers may differ in color or shade of ink from the Treasury seal. The numbers may not be uniformly spaced or aligned.



Paper

Genuine currency paper has tiny red and blue fibers embedded throughout. Often counterfeiters try to simulate these fibers by printing tiny red and blue lines on their paper. Close inspection reveals, however, that on the counterfeit note the lines are printed on the surface, not embedded in the paper. It is illegal to reproduce the distinctive paper used in the manufacturing of United States currency.



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If you would like further information on counterfeit currency detection, please speak to your local crime prevention officer or

***visit the US Secret Service website
www.secretservice.gov***