

HOW TO SPOT A FAKE SMARTBAR



FAKE SMARTBAR

Strange Descriptions

Fake product listings often refer to a 'crocodile mouth' or 'BODYPUMP style'. This is done to avoid detection and legal action from manufacturers.

Older Design

Les Mills no longer makes the older style (Generation 1) SMARTBAR, with a red LES MILLS logo on the 'gator'.

Lower Price

If the price is too good to be true then it's probably a fake.



Poor Quality Materials + Missing Warranty

Fake products use inferior materials inside and out, and don't have the high safety standard of genuine products. Fake products don't usually offer a warranty.

Missing Details

Most fake SMARTBAR products have no logo, or a logo where the E in LES MILLS is replaced with a 6 (L6SMILLS). Finer details (like the colour of the screws) may look strange.



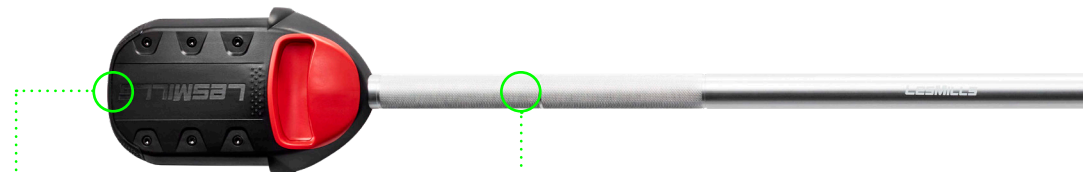
GENUINE SMARTBAR

Durability

Genuine SMART TECH products come with a warranty. Just one drop of a fake barbell causes significant structural damage, dropping it a second time resulted in catastrophic failure.

Official Distributors

Genuine products are sold through our **official distributors**. Fake products are often sold on marketplaces such as Alibaba, eBay, Amazon & Taobao.



Serial Number

Genuine SMARTBARS have a serial number inside one end of the 'gator'.

High Quality Materials

Our products are designed and manufactured to withstand thousands of drops without breaking.

FAKE WEIGHT PLATE



Missing Details

Fake products are usually missing the LES MILLS logo on the plate handle and outside edges.

Older Design

Older style weight plates are a sure sign of a fake. Other signs are a strong rubber smell, a shiny or hard texture or poorly attached red inserts.

GENUINE WEIGHT PLATE

Logo placement

Genuine products have a LES MILLS Logo on the handle and edges of the weight plate.

Newer Style

Genuine SMART TECH weight plates are the newer style and have the red accents as shown.



We will investigate any potential counterfeit/illegal sellers and take the necessary steps to shut down the listing, post or site. [Please help to report anything suspicious here](#)

FAKE PRODUCT MYTHS

Why do Les Mills care if people choose to buy fake products?

One word - safety. Fake barbell products are not simply a copy of the genuine product. They are not made in the same factory and they are definitely not made using the same materials. They are literally not fit for purpose and dangerous for an activity such as lifting weights. We'd prefer that exercisers purchase genuine, safe products from any of our legitimate competitors, rather than purchasing fake products.

MYTH: There's nothing wrong with buying a counterfeit product – it's cheaper and works just the same!

It's what you can't see that makes the difference. From the outside, original and fake products often look remarkably similar, but user safety is the difference when it comes to workout equipment. The authentic LES MILLS SMARTBAR™ is designed and manufactured to withstand 80,000 drop tests without any mechanical or cosmetic failure before it is deemed safe.

We have tested all the fake barbell products that we have seen using the same test protocol as the genuine SMARTBAR. None have survived more than a single drop without sustaining serious structural damage, or mechanical failure. This is due to the fact that fake products are all made using poor quality (cheap) materials and inferior assembly methods.

Independent testing of fake products shows they are unsafe. The testing procedure for a genuine SMARTBAR involves a sequence of simulations to replicate a typical lifecycle resulting in the bar undergoing 80,000 drops.

Under independent tests, fake barbells became **structurally unsafe after the very first drop**, when dropped from a height of 0.5m with only a moderate weight loading (not the maximum loading the genuine SMARTBAR is certified to withstand).

It is immediately obvious that the fake products are made with inferior materials and lack the strength of a genuine SMARTBAR. The plastic parts used in fake products are made of poor quality materials and often lack critical features required for strength. The insides of the 'gator' on some fake products are defective, creating a high stress point when under load, causing the barbell to break.

Just one drop of a fake barbell causes significant structural damage to the 'gator', rendering it unsafe for further use. Dropping it a second time from the same height, **resulted in catastrophic failure** as the entire 'gator' head separated from the bar, with the potential for serious injury to a user.

MYTH: It's a low risk purchase, I may as well try it.

It's not the same as a fake handbag. A fake barbell product will increase the risk of injury and damage as they are often produced using inferior materials.

While the initial purchase price is lower than a genuine item, fake barbell products will need to be replaced more often due to failure. Even if a fake bar is never dropped, during normal use the product will be exposed to fatigue loadings that will result in failure over time.

Long-lasting products such as the genuine SMARTBAR have a smaller environmental impact than fake products. Disposing of a broken barbell and weight set is difficult and contributes to increasing consumer waste.

MYTH: They are probably made in the same factory.

These products are **not** made in the same factory and they are definitely not made using the same materials, to withstand the same levels of stress.

MYTH: Why would I spend more money when I can get 'the same' for less?

Les Mills provides a 3-year warranty on all its SMARTBAR products. In developing the SMARTBAR, Les Mills created a test plan based on what a typical weight bar would need to withstand for use in group fitness workouts in a gym environment. As part of its product development process, the SMARTBAR is required to withstand these tests without any mechanical or cosmetic failure before it's deemed safe. The SMARTBAR meets a high safety standard – the same cannot be said for any fake barbell product.

MYTH: The genuine LES MILLS SMARTBAR product is not worth paying more for.

The SMARTBAR is the culmination of years of research and development, and millions of dollars in investment. We understand our product and the needs of our users intimately. Every decision that went into the design of the SMARTBAR is based on user feedback, testing and our goal to provide the best product we can. Every component that goes into a Les Mills product is designed and tested for optimum performance and strength. Where a material couldn't provide the results needed, we developed our own.