

HOW TO SPOT A BOTOX BANDIT

When products are as expensive as Botox, Dysport, Juvederm and Radiesse, unscrupulous characters crawl out of the woodwork selling discounted products acquired by questionable means. If you hang out by our fax machine, you'll see offers rolling in from mysterious companies posing as legitimate distributors offering bargain basement prices on Botox and other injectables imported from China and Mexico.

Just so you know, this is illegal and we report these offers before we shred them. But they look so legitimate, we had to research whether some physicians, either out of ignorance or greed, are actually buying this stuff. And the answer is unfortunately, yes.



Look for the "Allergan" hologram on each US FDA label: There is only one FDA-approved BOTOX® Cosmetic (onabotulinumtoxinA)



SO WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF?

- Always go to a Board-certified plastic surgeon or dermatologist for your injectable wrinkle treatments. Be skeptical about getting your treatments from non-core physicians (family practice, gynecologists, dentists, etc.)
- Accept treatment only with a brand-name substance that is approved for use in the United States by the FDA. Approval may be specific to your planned treatment or is openly accepted for off-label use.
- Stay away from "Botox parties", spas or non-medical setting for your treatments. Injectables should only be administered in a medically appropriate environment.
- Ask your physician's office how they get their product.
- Ask to look at the actual packaging of the product they are using. Not many people ever do this but they should. Botox has a hologram on each bottle which protects against counterfeits. Botox and Juvederm should be bought directly from Allergan. Dysport and Restylane come from Medicis.

GOOD TO KNOW: When the FDA clears a product, it also grants the distributor a federal license for sale and use in the United States. Products that are not purchased through the FDA- approved distributor may be counterfeit and pose a health risk. More to the point, federal law prohibits non-FDA-approved drug importation. Botox, for example, is shipped frozen. Deviations in the strict manufacturing, storage, and transportation procedures can't be a good thing.