

HOW TO SPOT A FAKE PLATE IN TEXAS

DECEPTIVELY SIMILAR LICENSE PLATES

A law passed by the 83rd Legislature that went into effect on September 1, 2013, Section 504.946, *Deceptively Similar License Plate*, in the Texas Transportation Code, makes it an offense to manufacture, sell, or possess a license plate that is deceptively similar to a license plate created by the TxDMV.

OFFICIAL TEXAS PLATES

When in doubt, you can find images of official Texas license plates at this website:

www.txdmv.gov/motorists/license-plates/specialty-license-plates

You may also contact My Plates, Mon-Fri 8a-5p, at 888-769-7528 with any questions.

COMMON FAKE PLATES – WHAT TO LOOK FOR

COLOR ON COLOR

All official Texas plate designs are required to meet reflectivity and legibility standards. Reflective, white alphanumeric characters will contrast with the plate background color.

PLATES FEATURING A COLORED ALPHANUMERIC CHARACTER PATTERN AGAINST A COLORED BACKGROUND ARE FAKE.

Common examples currently found on Texas streets are fake plates with red or pink characters on a black background.

FAKE



EMBEDDED SECURITY FEATURES

As of August 2012, two vertical threads joined the existing round holograms on all Texas license plates. These features make it easier for law enforcement to spot legitimate plates.



LONE STAR BLACK - BLUE - PINK - SILVER - WHITE - RED

This plate series with the Large Star on left-hand side of plate holds a maximum of 6 characters. **ANY 7-CHARACTER PATTERN ON A LARGE STAR PLATE IS FAKE.**

HOUSTON TEXANS

The Houston Texans have licensed their blue/white/red bull's head logo for use on two Texas license plates. Both of the real plates say "Houston Texans" in the bottom legend area. **ANY SINGLE-COLORED TEXANS LOGO, OR PLATES THAT DO NOT HAVE "HOUSTON TEXANS" IN THE BOTTOM LEGEND AREA ARE FAKE.**

REAL



FAKE



REAL



FAKE



WHAT ABOUT THE PLATE NUMBER?

Many FAKE plates are made with the vehicle's correct plate number printed on a fake plate design. **THESE ARE STILL ILLEGAL.**

FAKE



EURO-AND ODD-SIZED PLATES

Texas passenger, truck, and trailer license plates measure 6x12". Motorcycle plates measure 4x7". **PLATES OF ANY OTHER SIZE ARE EITHER FAKE OR VINTAGE (ISSUED BEFORE 1956).** Texas does not issue European-sized plates.

FAKE

