

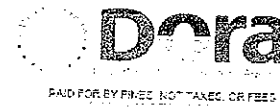
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### 4 Arrested Trying To Unload Counterfeit Cigarettes



ADAMS COUNTY, Colo. (CBS4) — Federal agents have busted a counterfeit cigarette smuggling ring and have arrested four people. They are accused of trying to sell counterfeit Newport menthol cigarettes to an Adams County store.

Reporting Rick Saffinger  
E-mail

The scheme backfired when the clerk cooperated with agents from the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms.

With ATF agents secretly watching, the smugglers made 17 deliveries, totaling 1,500 cartons of Newport menthols, containing 300,000 cigarettes at \$18 a carton, around half the normal price.

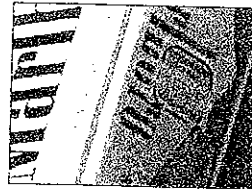
The cigarettes were not Newport menthols as the label claimed. They usually come from overseas and show up for sale on the east and west coasts at lower than normal prices.

On each package there is a tiny stamp that indicates if Colorado taxes have been paid. The fake cigarettes don't have it.

ATF agents were present in federal court where it was revealed at least one of the suspects is in the country illegally.

Counterfeit cigarettes are such a big business it's estimated to cost tobacco makers \$4 billion in lost sales a year.

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On each package there is a tiny stamp that indicates if Colorado taxes have been paid. The fake cigarettes don't have it.  
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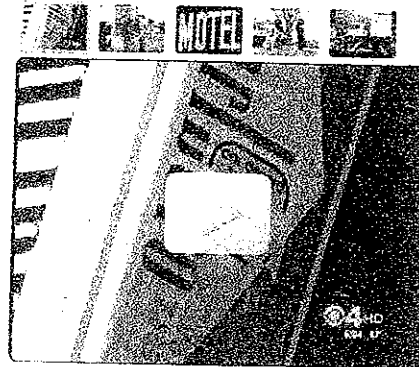
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