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# Massive haul of fake auto p

POLICE RAID IN UMM AL QUWAIN WAREHOUSE NETS GOODS WORTH DH36.7M

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**Dubai** In what is believed to be the biggest counterfeit auto-parts raid in the Gulf, police recently confiscated Dh36.7 million worth of fakes.

The counterfeit products — including Dh3.67 million worth of fake General Motors goods — were stored in an Umm Al Quwain warehouse. Oil filters, air filters, brake pads, pistons and clutches were among parts included in the haul.

General Motors in Dubai and their legal representatives, Al Shaali, had earlier told UAQ police about counterfeit products being stored in an UAQ warehouse. They were professionally branded and packed, ready to be exported. Some of the products were packed in GM-stamped boxes or had stamps from GM-sub-sidiary companies. Other packages had stamps of other multinational brands.

"The count revealed there were about 100,000 GM counterfeit products, including packages with GM stamps and company subsidiaries.

"After reporting this to the UAQ public prosecution, a search warrant was issued.

"UAQ police checked the identity of the warehouse owner. Law enforcement officers then raided the warehouse and confiscated the counterfeit products. The products were ready to be exported. There was Dh3.67 million worth of GM fake products," Salim Al Shaali, GM's lawyer, told Gulf News.

The rest of the products



## WARNING

### Counterfeit spares endanger lives of people

The profusion of counterfeit auto parts in this region is a serious threat to manufacturers and retailers, Joe Elenz, after-sales director of GM Middle East told *Gulf News*. "More importantly, they endanger the lives of consumers because they are often produced from substandard materials that don't hold up or perform like genuine parts.

"There have been a number of instances where counterfeit parts, such as brake pads, have failed at extremely inopportune moments. "GM has worked together with the authorities in all GCC countries, including the UAE, to help train customs officials more easily to identify counterfeit auto parts. We have also conducted joint community awareness projects as well as mounting raids on counterfeit operations."

tional brands. Investigations are still continuing and the case will be referred to the UAQ public prosecution.

"The raid resulted in one of the largest confiscation

the region. Our team has been working very closely with UAQ police and the customs authorities. The authorities' alertness and decisiveness in combating such a crime has been suc-



### Hard to tell

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