

How to spot counterfeit coins

Modern coins are much harder to counterfeit thanks to all the security features the Royal Mint puts into our coins today.

Check your £1 coins at home to make sure they are not fake by carrying out the following tests on your coins and looking for the special design features.

All coins are made to be exactly the same. Weigh and measure your £1 coin to check it is the correct size and weight.

£1 coins are made from two different metals, neither of which is attracted to magnets. Coins made this way are harder to counterfeit.

Test your coin with a magnet. If it were to stick to the magnet what might this tell you about your coin?

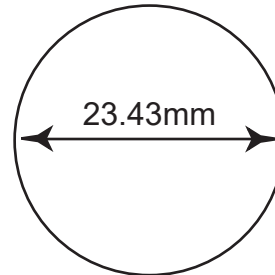


Coin Weight = 8.75g

It's best to use digital scales if you have some, kitchen scales are fine, as they are more accurate at measuring small amounts. Sometimes coins do have a bit of wear and tear which may mean your coin loses a bit of weight throughout its life. As long as your coin is close to this weight it should be fine.

Coin Diameter

This is the measurement across the center of the coin. It's hard to read such exact measurements with a ruler or tape measure, so take your measurements to the nearest mm. If you measure 23mm or 24mm this will be ok.



Micro lettering

Around the inside rim of a £1 coin is tiny writing we call micro lettering. It is very hard for counterfeiters to copy. Look closely at your coin with a magnifying glass. Can you read what the micro lettering says?

Latent Image

The £1 coin has a feature called a latent image just below the portrait of the queen. A latent image is a bit like a hologram, when viewed from one angle it shows a £ sign, viewed from another angle it shows a number 1.

Can you find the latent image on your coin? It's quite small so use a magnifying glass to help you.



THE ROYAL MINT®
MUSEUM