

How To Buy Good Quality Essential Oils

by

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Unfortunately, it is challenging these days to buy genuine essential oils. More and more unscrupulous traders are cashing in on this lucrative market. Below is a checklist of 10 items you can use to separate out the scammers from sellers of high quality pure essential oils.

1. Steer clear of sellers that use the words “perfume,” “perfume oil,” or “nature identical oil.” These words show that the products are not pure essential oils. They are probably just synthetic fragrances, or as best blends of synthetics and essential oils.
2. Be wary of suppliers claiming their essential oils are “therapeutic” or “aromatherapy” grade. In the essential oil industry, there are no such grades. These terms are used to encourage sales of products that may not be 100% pure. Use of these terms suggests a lack of knowledge of the essential oil industry.
3. If a vendor uses the term “pure essential oil,” ask to see copies of the Certificate of Analysis (CoA) for that oil. In fact, you should ask any vendor for a CoA if you want to be sure of quality and the technical ability of the vendor. The CoA should show a Lot Number, and include information on the botanical name, origin, extraction method, physical data (appearance, colour, odour, specific gravity, refractive index, optical rotation), and chromatographic profile (including the analytical conditions and equipment used). The CoA should be dated with name of the analyst. Be aware, A CoA is not the same as a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). The MSDS is only providing information on safety issues related to shipping and bulk handling by workers.
4. Essential oils should be sold in amber glass containers. Be wary of vendors selling oils in plastic or clear glass bottles.
5. Avoid purchasing essential oil in bottles with rubber dropper bulbs. These are liable to dissolve over time and show that the seller is not knowledgeable about essential oils.
6. Check out the educational background and technical experience of the vendor. Some are good at the sales pitch but have a limited technical knowledge or experience with essential oils.
7. You should avoid buying essential oils from places such as health food stores or department stores. Many of the brands sold in these types of places are lower in quality. They may have been on the shelf for a long time. Often, the sales staff are not knowledgeable about essential oils, apart from the sales pitch.
8. Avoid buying from sellers that do not provide essential oil botanical names, country of origin, extraction method, and Certificate of Analysis.
9. Genuine traders of essential oils do not make extravagant healing claims. Be wary of vendors that make these types of claims.
10. Pricing of essential oils can be an indicator of quality and the honesty of the vendor. Someone selling a range of essential oils all at the same price should be avoided. For example, good quality Patchouli is generally more expensive than say Eucalyptus or Tea Tree oil. The citrus oils can be cheaper.

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