

In 1972, the DLA (Defense Logistics Agency) created a centralized organization to handle the disposal of military surplus material.

The result was the DRMO, aka the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office.

All excess material from a fleet of vehicles down to individual articles of clothing is "turned in" to regional offices located at every U.S. military base worldwide.

Per regulation, equipment is required to be marked with "indelible" ink to prevent material from being recirculated back into the military supply system.

This DRMO ink stamp looks like this:



It should definitely be noted that this requirement is not followed in all cases.

Far from it.

Depending on which military base the equipment was originally turned in at, this ink stamp requirement may have been followed "never", or "always", or anywhere in-between.

The stamp can be applied to used items, but it can also be applied to NEW items still fresh in their original packaging.

Because all of our military surplus comes from multiple sources, the frequency and appearance of this DRMO ink stamp is subject to change.

In many cases a DRMO stamp can be thought of as an additional sign of authenticity, that the stamped equipment has been through the U.S. military supply system.

But other times you may want to remove the stamp.

The ink used in this stamp can be removed with effort and the right cleaning solution. We've seen people use many different types of "heavy-duty" household cleaner including Goof Off, Goo Gone, Simple Green and similar.

But if you don't want the stamp, don't want to clean the stamp, or just don't want the item, you may still be able to return it.

After many years in the industry, the Sportsman's Guide is familiar with this type of issue and offers a [return policy](#) that extends to all of its military surplus.

No matter how a product looks, we want you the customer to be happy with what you've received, and continue to buy more military surplus for many years to come.