

Christmas Shopping Precautions

Designed for 30-minute reading - guaranteed to save you hundreds of dollars!

It's **Christmas-shopping season** again, and you know what that means... there will be **many dealers** trying to sell you **Rolex replicas** because of their **immense popularity**. This article is designed to **help you gain a positive experience** shopping for Rolex replicas during the Christmas time.

Why Christmas?

Christmas is a time for spending time with your family... and of course, **spending money**. But like the **FBI, FTC**, and other **law-enforcement agencies** will always warn you, Christmas is also a time when **thieves will exploit your willingness to spend**. They will find **any and every possible way** to **take your money**, and in the **faceless world of the Internet**, there is **much to fear**.

This recent article by **USA Today** (October 20th, 2005) http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2005-10-20-cyber-crime_x.htm provides a chilling look into cybercrime:

- Online merchants **lost \$2 billion USD** to fraud, Gartner Research says
- Phishing – fraudulent web sites designed to trick consumers into divulging personal information – **gouged consumers an additional \$2 billion USD** last year
- Computer crime has **never been so lucrative**. With the Internet as ubiquitous as cable TV, there are millions of potential victims banking and shopping online
- "Willie Sutton used to say he robbed banks because that's where the money is," says FBI Agent Keith Lourdeau, an expert on cybercrime. "The same applies today to crooks and the Internet."

The FBI's recent **Web Snare operation** in August 2005 involved **150,000 victims** who lost more than **\$215 million dollars**. And as the FBI says, "...Although significant in number, these investigations represent only a fraction of the Cyber crime problem..." Through this operation, only 150 arrests/convictions were made. These mind-boggling numbers reminds us that **we must watch for ourselves** during this Christmas season.

Why Rolex Replica Dealers are Different

Taking precautions when **purchasing a Rolex replica** is **completely different** from taking precautions when purchasing books online. **Why?**

- Many Rolex replica dealers are downright **dishonest people**. Otherwise they wouldn't be selling **counterfeit watches**, with **outrageous and bogus claims**, and **preying on gullible shoppers**. They couldn't care less if your family had nothing to eat, and you saved up \$600 all year to purchase a Rolex replica; they would still steal that money from you.

- **The real crooks are not scared of police.** Nor the FBI. Many Rolex replica dealers are simply **petty thieves (car thieves, drug dealers)** who know someone in **New York** selling **cheap fake watches** on the streets. They make a **cheap website** and **take as much as they could**. Why not? It's **safer** than selling drugs; the **punishment** is certainly **much less**; and an actual **arrest** is even more **unlikely**. If they can take your **platinum Mastercard** information and sell it for **\$500** to be **duplicated** to an actual credit card, what's their risk?
- When you deal with counterfeit watches, the dealers expect you to be **less likely to report the crime**. And even if you did report the crime, would law enforcement agents **really care**? They already have **many, many cases** to deal with. In most cases, they would even **blame you** for trying to purchase a **counterfeit watch** in the first place. The thieves know this, and even if they **re-sell your personal information**, how can you tell the police or your credit card company, "I tried to buy a counterfeit watch online and...?"

Bottom line: many of these petty-thieves-converted-to-online-scammers have a **much easier life** in the **anonymous Internet world, gouging consumers**.

How Do they Do It?

It is **so easy** to commit a crime in the **faceless world** of the Internet. And it is **even easier** to commit the crime when they are committing the crime against consumers who are purchasing an **illegal product**. If a **prostitute stole your money** without providing the sex, **would you report it?** 95% of us wouldn't even bother. **And the crooks know this.**

Here are just some of the ways they commit their crimes:

"Phishing"

A more **popular recent crime** involves **setting up bogus websites** to **collect customer information**. Credit card information can be sold for as much as **\$500**, for valid platinum credit cards with high limits. Credit cards with limits as high as \$50,000 can easily be **re-sold** for **\$1000** to offshore crooks in other countries, who **duplicate the credit cards**.

Isn't it obvious why crooks would attempt to **gather your credit card information**, and then **resell it**? If you received just **5 valid orders** a day, and were paid an average of **\$200 per credit card information**, you stand to **earn \$1000 a day**, or **\$30,000 a month**. And remember, **crooks get paid in cash**. That means **tax-free, worry-free income**. And the scary thing is, they don't even need to fraudulently charge your credit card themselves.

Scary.

Stealing Money

There are many thieves who simply **cash your checks and run**. And there is **absolutely nothing** you can do about it. That is why you **never, ever, ever** send in a check or money order, or **pre-pay** for an **expensive replica watch**.

If you pay by **credit card**, many thieves can also set up a **merchant account** under a **fake identity**. They take your **credit card information**, **charge your credit card**, then **disappear with the money** (and possibly sell your credit card information). You have to **argue for weeks** with your credit card company to retrieve your losses, and also obtain a record of a **charge back on your credit card**. This happens **so frequently** that it is **impossible** for law-enforcement agencies to track these cases. Especially when they're so busy battling terrorism already!

You Get What You Pay For

The **worst thieves** are the ones who **take your money**, then ship you a **poor quality product**. This is **no longer fraud**; it is simply **misrepresentation of the product**. A **New York China-made** Rolex replica can cost as cheap as **\$20**. **Japan-made replicas** usually cost about **\$100 wholesale**. And **Swiss-made replicas** usually cost **\$500-700 wholesale**. So if a thief sells you a Swiss-made quality replica for \$400-600, and ships you a \$20 replica, they **earn enormous amounts** of money.

Credit card companies tend to **avoid cases** where the customer received a poorer quality product. **Visa and Mastercard** are well-known to tell many customers that they are just **payment processors**, and **do not govern nor guarantee the quality of products**. American Express and Discover are **better** at fighting for consumers, but in any case, a **permanent black mark** is left on your file whenever you **file a dispute** with your **credit card company**.

Many dealers get away with this for a long time simply by **offering unbelievable (and it is literally NOT believable) prices** on expensive Rolex replicas. As we know, **most** consumers come on the Internet looking for **"deals"**, and **slick talkers** are able to **convince consumers** into **sending payment** or **providing credit card information**.

Shopping Precautions

...and now the section you have all been waiting for! Here are Replica Center's recommendations. These recommendations are provided based on **feedback from hundreds of customers each month** who purchase Rolex replicas on the Internet. **No one** can **guarantee** you a **positive buying experience**. But by taking these **common-sense precautions**, it's as close as you'll ever get.

Use American Express or COD ONLY

VISA/Mastercard provide **very poor customer-protection** for Internet-based transactions. The **only time** VISA/Mastercard stands up for customers is when the dealer **does not ship out a product** at all. Otherwise, they are known to be **extremely unaccommodating** to customers who received very poor quality replicas. And remember that even if you **win a dispute** with your credit card company, the dispute

will still be **recorded permanently** in your record and can **definitely hurt you later on in the future**.

When **paying by COD**, you are **absolutely guaranteed** to be **receiving a product** because **you do not pay anything until you receive the product**. This alone is **priceless**; it **forces the dealer** to ship out your product as soon as possible. It also **shifts the risk** to the dealer instead of the consumer; after all, **why does the consumer always have to take all the risk?**

Secondly, a **return address** is provided on the package, and you are able to know the **name of the person/company** who is cashing your check. These 2 things will help **prevent much of the scams** already because it provides a **positive way** for anyone to **track and identify** the shipper of the package.

Never, under any circumstances, mail in a check or money order. It is honestly proven that **over 60% of the times**, you will never see your money, nor the product, ever again.

Swiss-made Replicas, Use COD ONLY

The reason you should **avoid using credit cards** on **expensive transactions** is because most dealers simply **want your credit card information**. They are sure you have a **high limit** on the credit card, and they can **sell that information for a lot of money**. Especially **American Express** credit cards, which are known to have **high limits** and are **highly-valued** by criminal organizations who duplicate credit cards.

As the saying goes for expensive purchases: if you cherish your money, go with COD.

Beware of Cheap-Looking Sites

Most of the cheap-looking sites with **little or poor photos and information** may **obviously be a sign of a scam**. Many of these thieves **do not have the resources nor time** to create an **informative and pleasant website**. After all, they are expecting to **shut down their website shortly** and **open up another one** under a different name, so why spend all the effort on the website?

An example of a website we have **received countless complaints** about includes 2005swiss. Their photos are **stolen from perfectswiss**, and again with **no detailed photos** and a **self-stated 2 year warranty**. Their website is **obviously the type** that will shut down in a few months only to open up again under a different name to **steal money from new, unsuspecting customers**. **What a way to ruin someone's Christmas.**

Beware of Outrageous Claims and High-Pressure Selling

There are many sites whom make **outrageous claims**, such as "we are a discount seller and we can get you the same replica for hundreds less", or "we are the manufacturer and we can sell you Swiss replicas for hundreds less". These are **very obvious signs of scams**. **If it sounds too good to be true, then it's too good to be true.**

Also beware of sites using **high-pressure tactics** such as “place your order now!” and “give us a call right away, we want to talk to you on the phone, call now, call now!” **Professional thieves** are **experts** at disguising **themselves over the phone** and **adapting to the consumer**. They know that once they get you on the phone, they are **able to convince you** to hand over your personal information. So **watch out** for sites that are **simply trying too hard**.

An example of some websites we have received **countless complaints** about includes betterwiss. They **claim** to have been in business for **over 7 years** on the Internet and **over 10 years** altogether; their **domain registration** shows they have not been in business on the Internet for more than a year. Not to mention the **bogus photo** on the front page of their website. It is **no surprise** why **so many furious customers** have emailed us saying they received **no product**, or the **product was a very poor quality** China-made replica they could have bought for \$25 in New York.

Look for Clear, Crisp Photos of Replicas

Most thieves **do not have the time nor resource** to take **good, crisp, detailed photos** of their replicas. Look for sites which have **several photos** from **different angles** of the watches. These sites are usually only the **major dealers** and expect to be around for a while, so they have the **resources** to do so. Because the **thieves shut down** and **bring up** websites so much.

An example of a scam dealer is Club Replica. They **used to be** a credible Japan-made Rolex replica dealer, until they started **offering Rolex replicas for \$600** and **claimed they were Swiss-made Rolex replicas**. But what they were really doing was **waiting for unsuspecting** customers to purchase a \$600 replica instead of a \$200 replica, and **just ship them the \$200 replica**. Most customers don't even know the difference between a Swiss-made replica and a Japan-made replica. They **don't know** that they could've **purchased the exact same replica for \$400 less**. And the ones who do know, the **company simply ignores them**. So what can customers do? **Nothing**, except **complain to Replica Center**. That allows them to vent their frustrations, but do nothing for their monetary losses. **It's sad, but true**.

Keep Up-To-Date on Replica Center Recommendations

It is important that you **constantly check Replica Center's recommendations** for purchasing a **Rolex replica**. Because we receive **countless feedback** from customers all over the Internet, our staff is able to **get a clear picture** of **who is getting scammed** and **who is not**.

Most victims of scams are **not able to vent their frustration** anywhere except to **send Replica Center an email**, alerting us so that **no one else** becomes victims of another scam. **Don't be a victim this Holiday Season**, and **get your money's worth**. After all, **you work hard all year for your money, and you deserve much better**.

Take care, and Happy Holiday Shopping