

Credit Cards are NOT Always Safe

Note: The reason this article is written is because of a large number of visitors' emails complaining that the information on some of our articles is wrong.

This article is an addendum to the article about scams over the Internet. Because that article was written by one author, please note that it represents that staff's members' views ONLY.

In particular, they were mentioning that money orders, Western Union transfers, bank wires, etc. over the Internet are bad. The author of that article also mentioned that credit cards is the only safe way to order and that any company that did not accept credit cards is a scam.

That is far from the truth. As a matter of fact, millions of positive transactions are conducted everyday with money orders and Western Union transfers.

What that author was trying to point out is that in general, money orders, Western Union transfers, bank wires, etc. are not good. The reason is simple: you hand cash to someone you don't know.

But did you know that many credible companies delivering excellent products would rather not accept your credit card? Read on to find out why!

Drawbacks of Credit Cards

Firstly, paying by a credit card is, in general, safer. The reason is because Visa/Mastercard will listen to customers' complaints, unlike companies that issue money orders, or Western Union.

However, this does not mean that you can call Visa/Mastercard, say you got scammed, and expect to get your money back right away. As a matter of fact, the whole process can be lengthy and complicated... so much that it's not even worth going through if you got scammed for \$50.

The credit card companies are not servants for the customers, and don't credit their customers just because they feel they got scammed. Firstly, they force you to sign an agreement which says you ordered a product and did not receive it. Next, they conduct an investigation which takes about 30 days, to ensure you were really scammed.

This dispute does NOT always favor the customer. As a matter of fact, if the merchant is able to provide some sort of a tracking number, or has a history of shipping credible products to their customers, Visa/Mastercard might not even believe you.

The important thing to remember here is this: Visa, Mastercard, Amex, and other credit card companies are payment systems. They are under NO LEGAL OBLIGATION to ensure you receive a fair product. Although they attempt to assist customers, they are doing it out of their own goodwill and not a legal nor contractual obligation.

If the replica watch dealer ripped you off, you are legally supposed to sue the company yourself. And you're trying to sue a replica watch company because you didn't receive an illegal product? Might not win in court.

Why Companies Don't Accept Credit Cards

Contrary to the article about scams, there are many, many legitimate reasons why replica watch companies don't accept credit cards. Firstly, the USA is full of scams. Not just in credit card usage, but also on the stock market (as seen recently in companies such as WorldCom, Enron, Xerox, etc.).

Likewise, credit card users abuse their privileges with credit cards and can really harm an otherwise honest merchant. Statistics show that credit card users from the USA are 5 times more likely to abuse their privileges as compared to other countries, especially in Europe and Australia.

However, I do agree with a principle from the Scams article – if a replica watch company is not able to accept credit cards at all... do not order! Any dealer who can't accept credit cards are either not a legitimate business, or don't have good credit (which are 2 prerequisites to accepting credit cards).

Fishing for Numbers

There are many scam artists who set up websites just to take your credit card number and run. This means they take your information, and scan it onto counterfeit credit cards, or they use your credit card number for other purposes. Not as safe as money order or Western Union, is it?

The moral of the story is watch out whom you're purchasing from. Handing out your credit card information may not be the best idea a lot of times.

Can't Afford to Lose

Asian Rolex replicas retail for \$30-50 on the streets, and sell for \$140-\$200 over the Internet. Which means if the dealer gets scammed for 1 watch, they can easily make up the loss in another sale.

However, Swiss Rolex replicas wholesale for as much as \$700 each, and that watch retails for \$1000. So imagine if a dealer gets scammed for 1 watch – they would have to sell the equivalent of an extra 3 watches just to make a small profit (excluding the extra costs involved in processing so many orders!).

Also, many merchants risk having their merchant accounts shut down if there are excessive disputes and charge backs from customers.

This is one huge reason why some dealers don't accept credit cards for high-ticket items such as the genuine Swiss-made replicas.

Credit Card Delays for Swiss-made Replicas

Dealers who process credit cards in the United States undergo much more processing restrictions than in other parts of the world, because of fraud alone.

If a dealer processes your order for over \$500, it will take them at least 2-4 business days just to get the order verified. Then it takes another 1-2 days to get the money physically deposited into their account. After that, they ship it out and it will take another 1 business day to get to you.

So is it true that Swiss-made replica dealers can offer "same day shipping if you order by 3pm EST" like idealwatches.com/replicalord.com claim? Absolutely NOT. As a matter of fact, replicalord claims on their shipping page that your order will take 5-10 business days to arrive (which is the truth). But on their watch pages, they claim orders are shipped out the next business day (??).

No replica dealer will ever ship out an order before verification of the order. There are always problems with merchant accounts (such as the dealer's funds being frozen for some reason), so dealers will never dig \$700 into their own pockets to purchase a watch for wholesale just to find out later they aren't going to receive the \$1000 from their merchant accounts.

Although money orders have delays as well, this is to prove that credit card orders above \$500 in the United States require a lot more processing time.

Eurofakes.com is currently battling that by accepting a maximum of \$500 per credit card on their Swiss-made replicas, which means you will need 2 credit cards to place your order and have it shipped out within 2-4 business days. This strategy seems to be working well so far, as we have not seen complaints from their customers citing delays in shipping.

What about Warranty?

Does shopping with a credit card mean you will receive a guaranteed warranty for 1 year? No!

Imagine talking to Visa/Mastercard 1 year after your purchase and saying you want a new one. The dealer you purchased from is probably long gone by then. Visa/Mastercard can't chase the dealer for it anymore. Let's see if you got the better of the deal by paying with a credit card:

If you paid by money order or credit card, your so-called 'warranty' doesn't exist anymore.

If you paid by money order or credit card from a credible company, you would have gotten your product either way.

But if you paid with your credit card, the dealer now has your credit card info and can do anything they want with it.

So this example shows that you actually have a lot to lose by giving out your credit card information to someone you don't know. And especially giving it out to someone who sells counterfeit watches... who knows what else he counterfeits!

The only reason you want a warranty is to ensure that your watch can be repaired if it is broken. You will find that most local jewelers will NOT deal with replicas. Which means that if your watch has any minor problems or requires some routine maintenance (like any watch does), no one will work on it.

In general, the cheaper replicas (\$300 and less) are not even worth fixing. It will cost you usually \$100 or so to fix even minor problems at any jeweler. But with the genuine Swiss-made replicas, you will need to have the movements serviced like any Swiss watch out there.

One jeweler highly recommended by us is <http://www.swissrepairs.com>. They are one of the rare companies that will work with replicas and do a great job at it. Many websites have used them for problems related to replicas. They have contracts with some Swiss-made replica websites and give a 50% discount on repairs (as compared to other Swiss jewelers who charge \$75 an hour for labor alone).

Read our "Common Flaws" and "How to Repair" article for more information on servicing a replica watch.

The Secret to Shopping Safe...

Ultimately, the secret to safe-shopping is smart-shopping. Regardless of whether you pay by credit card, money order, or Western Union, if you are paying a credible company for a good product, that is exactly what you will receive. And if you are dealing with a bad company... then regardless of how you pay, YOU WILL LOSE!

So the payment type is not nearly as important as credibility. Credibility is key. Sure, credit cards offer you a safer haven, but remember that whomever you submit your credit card information to, they will have it for life!

Summary

In summary, there are many, many legitimate reasons why dealers of genuine Swiss-made Rolex Replicas can't or don't accept credit cards. This does not mean you should go out and send money orders to fly-by-night operations who deliver inferior products. But if the website has had a reputation for strong products and happy customers, we suggest alternative, valid methods of payments as well.

Check out our Site Ratings for our reviews and recommendations.