

Article – How You Can Be Scammed

The main advantage of purchasing any item over the Internet is convenience – you can search for over 100 dealers in a matter of seconds, each offering the ‘best’ Rolex replica (or so they say). But the main disadvantage is the ease in which you can be ripped off... and how it is virtually impossible for you to recover your losses.

Majority of people who purchase anything over the Internet do not believe they can be scammed. They think it is as safe as making a purchase at a physical store, where you can go back if you don’t like anything.

But imagine this: you find a website that offers very low prices, much lower than anywhere else. They don’t take credit cards, so you quickly send in a money order. Then 30 days later, their website is gone (it takes no longer than 2 seconds to take down or put up a website). So what do you do? Call the police? Find a lawyer? There is nothing you can do once the money order has been cashed – even the company that issued the money order will tell you it is your own problem (give it a try and call them).

So you have to be extremely careful when purchasing ANYTHING over the Internet, especially in a gray market such as replicas.

This article will give you a list of the most common scams that the staff here has encountered over the past decade, as they relate to replicas. It should include most, if not all of the scams possible against you. So once you’ve read this, look out for the warning signs listed. Then read the next article to see how you can fight it!

Type 1 Scam: Delivered Product is not Exactly as Described

Scenario: You make a purchase over the Internet for a top quality Rolex replica, with a Swiss-made movement, solid gold band, serial numbers engraved between the lugs, genuine sapphire crystal and feeling exactly like the real thing. You make a payment (either by money order or credit card) and receive the product a week later.

But the product you receive is much different. The watch is much lighter than a genuine Rolex your friend owns. The markings on the face are nowhere near sharp. The so-called ‘sapphire crystal’ is only plastic and scratches easily. There are no serial numbers hidden in the correct areas (including between the lugs), and the band feels very flimsy... too flimsy to be solid gold.

Overall, it is a good fake, but for hundreds of dollars, anyone who is even slightly familiar with the real thing will absolutely laugh at you in front of people at a big party. Or what’s worse, they will talk behind your back and tell everyone that you can only afford fakes and have to pretend they are real.

How It Works: Pictures and words lie, especially over the Internet. If I tell you right now that I am Tom Cruise, is there any way for you to prove that I am lying? Probably not. Even though your best wits would tell you that I am lying, the Internet is a very deceitful place and that is why you hear so many stories of older people posing as younger men, and luring young girls.

I can say anything, or show any pictures I want. I can make my website look like it is ready to compete with Microsoft. And in most cases, there is really nothing you can do to retrieve your money.

When you pay by a money order, you are paying by cash. If you send cash to someone you don't know, you are setting yourself up to be ripped off. Even the FBI recommends you pay by credit card whenever possible (covered in the next chapter).

Also, if you pay a company that does not have a telephone number where you are constantly able to reach them at least 50% of the times before ordering, you probably won't be able to reach them after they have taken your money and sent you junk.

And for those who are really curious, no, the FBI, police, US Postal Service, etc. couldn't care less if you got ripped off because there is nothing they can (or want) to do about it. Ask someone who has been ripped off before over the Internet.

Type 2 Scam: No Product Arrives

Scenario: You find a very professional-looking site with great prices... much lower than elsewhere. You send in a money order for under \$500 and nothing arrives.

How It Works: A very, very common scam, where you send money and nothing arrives. This type of scam is abundant on the Internet (even without pointing fingers at replicas). You mail in a money order for under \$500, and nothing comes to your hands.

The reason the prices are usually very low is because law enforcement agencies do not pay much attention to scams where people's losses are under \$500, and especially to scams involving replica watches.

As mentioned before, money order is cash. You send it in, and I have no tangible obligation to send you anything at all. I can shut down my website, close my doors forever, and earn a LOT of money.

Even if you were to pay by a credit card, some credit card companies do not pay attention to illegitimate transactions that occurred past 3 months. So if the dealer can delay you for a couple months, saying they are low on supplies or something, then after 3 months, the credit card company will not care if you complain saying you didn't receive anything.

The root of this scam is greed. Not only on the part of the seller, but also the buyer. They want to save money. As much as possible. So if they see something being sold for \$1000 somewhere, and \$500 elsewhere, the \$500 deal sounds much better, right? Of course it SOUNDS much better.

Type 3 Scam: The "Warranty" Policy is not Honored

Scenario: You purchase a solid gold replica watches, with a genuine Swiss-made movement, sapphire crystal, etc. The watch looks great, and the company has offered you a 1 year warranty

policy. But after 6 months, the watch breaks down. The company ignores your request for a warranty repair or exchange, and no jeweler wants to touch it because it is a replica.

How It Works: No company is criminally obligated to honor a warranty policy. If you were to purchase something from a name brand company and they did not honor their warranty policy, all you can do is file a civil lawsuit against them.

Likewise, no replica company is completely obligated to honor their warranty policies. If they don't, are you going to sue them? Good luck, because Rolex would have done that already.

Which means if the company says they offer a 6 month warranty, or a 1 year warranty, or a 10 year warranty, there is no way you can enforce this warranty. Once your watch breaks, or the so-called "solid gold" starts wearing off (ie. when you figure out it's not really solid gold), you are stuck with that watch because most jewelers won't even touch a replica watch for legal reasons.

Does that mean you are out of luck? No. There is only one way this warranty policy can be at least partially enforced – if you order with a credit card. This means if you purchase with a credit card, and the company clearly states they offer a 1 year warranty, then 9 months later if they don't offer that warranty... you CAN call your credit card company to complain, and they will investigate into it (at least Visa/Mastercard does)!

But if you purchase with a money order, or if you use any payment systems (such as CCNow, PayPal, Verza, etc.), then you are out of luck. No payment system will enforce policy or quality policies, and money orders are basically cash.

The moral of the story? Never, ever order with a money order (unless you really, REALLY know who they are and have ordered watches from them through credit cards before). If you order with a money order, or use a payment system, then the company will most likely send you junk that won't even look good, gold-plated watches, cheap movements, etc. to save money and earn much more profits (see our wholesale article for the prices dealers actually pay).

Don't believe us? Then give it a try, order from a crappy place with a money order, and learn your lesson the hard way. The replica industry is a very gray market, and you will encounter every scam available on the Internet.

Type 4 Scam: False Money Back Guarantee

Scenario: Like the scenario above where the company does not honor its warranty policies, what's worse is they will not honor their money back guarantee policies. That means you just received your product, and figured out it's no different from the best quality Rolex replica you can get from the streets for \$200, and you paid \$400-900 for it. You email them and ask them about their money back guarantee (since they don't have a phone number where they can be easily reached), and you don't hear from them again.

How It Works: This is very similar to how dealers scam you on fake warranty policies. If they don't give you back your money, they have not committed fraud since you have already received the product. No legal authorities will care about your complaints if it involves counterfeit/replica watches.

But once again, credit cards can save you – you contact your credit card company and notify them that you want your money back because the quality is much different from what they represented (read the Type 1 Scam), and the credit card companies will more than likely help you get your money back.

This is the second major reason why you should never buy from companies which accept money orders only or use credit card payment systems like PayPal, CCNow, or Verza.

If they don't accept credit cards even though it is much more convenient for the merchant, obviously there's a reason: they cannot and will not deliver quality that matches up with a legitimate refund policy and a lengthy warranty.

Type 5 Scam: Stealing Your Money

Scenario: You purchase a replica watch and wait impatiently for it. Then 3 days later, a package from a courier arrives. You become delighted and open up the package... only to notice that it has nothing but a large chunk of rock (or other piece of useless, heavy junk) inside. How come?

How It Works: This scam is similar to the scam where they take your money and send you nothing, except these crooks are smarter: they don't want to be charged with mail fraud for not delivering anything, so they courier a rock to you, that weighs about the same weight as a replica watch. This way, the courier receipt shows a tracking number to prove that you received the 'watch', and also the weight of the package which proves it wasn't an empty package.

You probably won't find this scam for credit card payments. It is much more common in credit card payment systems (PayPal, CCNow, Verza) and especially money orders.

The whole scenario might sound like a big joke to you, but you won't be laughing once a rock arrives in YOUR mailbox.

Another good reason never to order anything over the Internet (especially replica watches) with a money order.

Type 6 Scam: Swapped Parts

Scenario: You purchase a Swiss-made Rolex replica, with a genuine Swiss movement, pressure-proof casing up to 30m, exact markings on the entire watch including the band and clasp, exact replica box set, sapphire crystal, solid or triple wrapped gold, and so on. You receive the watch, and it really looks and feels great. You don't own the real thing and don't know much about watches, but this replica looks great, has a sweeping second hand, and most importantly, the markings on the face are very sharp. So how is this a scam?

How It Works: This scam is so common with replica watch dealers that you won't even notice it happening.

If you don't know much about watches, you probably can't tell the difference between different types of movements, different types of crystals, different types of gold, and the quality of the watch.

What most dealers love to do is swap parts on replica watches. The only way that most people can tell the difference between a cheap Asian replica, and a top quality genuine Swiss-made replica is through the markings and the general feel of the watch. But here is a combination that 95% of customers can't tell the difference between a genuine and a fake Swiss-made replica:

Japan-made movement: sweeping second hand with hack movement, and genuine date font

Swiss-made face: very sharp markings

China-made plastic crystal: feels the same as a sapphire crystal to a regular person

Gold-plating instead of solid gold: regular person can't tell the difference

Japan-made casing: feels and weighs almost the same as a Swiss-made casing, except no pressure proof

China-made box set: looks good enough for most people

Japan-made bands and clasps: weighs almost the same as a Swiss-made band/clasp, except a regular person can't feel the difference

So with the watch you receive assembled like the above, only the face is from a Swiss-made replica. But the point is, a regular person really can't see or tell that the rest of the watch uses China/Japan-made parts!! We will not go into detail here about how each part of the watch functions (that will be covered in another article), but now you should know how easy it is to get ripped off!

Most, if not all people can't tell the difference between a Swiss-made and Japan-made movement. They can't tell the difference between cheap plastic crystals and genuine sapphire crystals, which are scratch-resistant and much tougher. A regular person never swims 100 feet under water with a replica so they'll never know that the quality of the case is nowhere near as tough as on a genuine, Swiss-made replica. The box set they receive looks good enough for them that they will never get to even see how amazing the replica box sets on a Swiss-made replica really are. They also won't even know the difference between a solid-gold and a heavily plated gold watch is, until the gold starts fading.

What does this all sum up to? A cheap watch at a much higher price. Dealers (including some of our staff) have done this in the past, and are aggressively doing this right now, to increase their profits. They earn AT LEAST \$300 more per watch if they swapped Swiss-made parts for cheaper Asian-made parts. If they sold one a day, that means they earn an extra \$9000 a month, without ever 'ripping' anyone off by not delivering a watch!

And you will not believe how easy all of this can be done. It takes an experienced person just minutes to swap movements, and even quicker to swap bands. With the right tools, it takes no more than 10 minutes to swap crystals. So that means with about 30 minutes of work, the dealer can save over \$300 per watch. Wouldn't you be tempted to do it too?

This is by far and wide the biggest reason NEVER to pay with a money order. The cheaper parts will come back to get you later. The movement will break down after a few months, or even in a few years. The plastic crystals will scratch, and the gold will start fading in half a year. Water damage is sure to occur because of swapping parts (since new parts aren't completely sealed correctly), so that will come back to bite you later on.

It boils down to one point: protect yourself! The dealer's best interest is what goes inside their own pockets. You have no clue when people are swapping parts, and when they aren't, unless you are a skilled watchmaker and can tell the difference.

You will need that 1 year warranty on Swiss-made replicas, especially, to prove that you are really getting a genuine, Swiss-made Rolex replica. And remember what we said before... unless you are paying with a credit card to a credible company that you can reach over the phone in case problems do come up, you can kiss your warranty goodbye.

Type 7 Scam: False Gold!!

Scenario: You purchase a solid gold, or a triple-wrapped gold watch, and the gold begins to fade within a few months, or even a year, from purchasing.

How It Works: This scam is basically a combination of several scams above, but we believe it is so common and so important that it deserves a classification of its own.

The biggest worry that most customers have when purchasing a Rolex replica is the quality of the gold. If the gold looks fake, nothing else matters. But that is not the only issue at stake. If the gold will wear off, then the rest of the watch is useless too.

So what is all this different type of 'gold-wrap' that people are talking about?

Basically, everyone claims their 2-tone Swiss-made replicas are all solid gold, and their all-gold Swiss-made replicas are triple-wrapped gold. Is this true, and is there a difference?

Yes, this is true, but only on a GENUINE Swiss-made Rolex replica. Genuine Swiss-made Rolex replicas come out of the factory with solid 18k gold bands, or triple-wrapped 18k gold bands. But like the scam described above, many, many crook dealers swap their bands with cheaper bands, and re-sell the Swiss-made bands (with all the correct engravings) as GENUINE bands and make a lot of money doing this. My estimate is that dealers who sell just one Swiss-made replica a day and re-sell their bands again can earn a profit of \$30,000 a month simply by ripping people off. They can earn at least \$300 extra per Swiss replica, plus a minimum of \$500 per band. Very, very tempting for all the greedy and dishonest people selling replicas.

A solid-gold band means that the gold links are constructed from SOLID gold. So this means they are solid all the way through. A triple-wrapped band means that the gold is wrapped in thick layers, consecutively, 3 times.

Our estimate is that 90% of dealers offering solid or triple-wrap gold are delivering only single-wrapped gold (all of them offering money orders only as their payment option). The gold won't even start to wear out until 6-9 months later, and that is long after they have disappeared and you won't see them again.

The scariest thing about this type of scam is that the dealers themselves, a lot of times, don't even know they are ripping customers off. It is the wholesalers who are doing it, but when the dealers have a hint of this, they offer shorter warranty periods such as 9 months, 6 months, or even 3

months, just to be safe they aren't liable for chargebacks from the credit card companies once customers start to complain.

This scam is most common in companies accepting money orders only because of the fact that they won't have any liability once they've received your money. If you pay by a credit card and are offered a 1 year warranty, you are well secured that this scam probably won't be happening to you.

Summary

We hope this article has helped you identify the scams. Don't take it as a joke just because it hasn't happened to you before. These articles are written by people with years of experience in the replica industry, and we've seen them all happen (and even done some of them before in the past).

Scams are more abundant than you will ever believe in the replica industry, and we never, ever want honest paying customers to be ripped off. You deserve what you pay for, and that applies for Rolex replicas too.

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/repicalord.com claim? Absolutely NOT. As a matter of fact, [repicalord](http://repicalord.com) 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.