

Credit Card Safety Tips



With the wide use of credit cards at stores or restaurants, and with online shopping, credit cards fraud has been on the rise. This article offers several tips to help you avoid credit card fraud.

- If you receive an email asking for your credit card details, delete it. Never respond to such emails, even if they seem to be official emails from your bank.
- Whenever you present your credit card to any merchant, make sure that he/she does not charge you twice.
- Avoid credit card schemes. When you give your credit card to a merchant, he/she can insert your credit card in a small machine and extract all the information from the magnetic strip. Then they can make another credit card with this information and use it fraudulently.
- Don't enter your credit card number into an unsecured website. Before entering your credit card online, make sure the address uses "https" rather the "http." Also, make sure that your browser displays the secure lock, usually in the bottom right corner, or toward the top in some browsers. The website should also display a certification from trusted companies like Versign or Thawte.
- As soon as you receive your credit card, sign the back of it. If you lose a card that doesn't have your signature, someone else may sign the card as you. There should be instructions on the credit card regarding activation.
- If possible, keep your credit card away from your wallet or purse.
- If someone calls and claims that they are from your bank, never give the credit card number to them over the phone. Call your bank back and provide the number, if it is really needed.
- Before giving a credit card number over the phone, make sure you can trust them. Make sure they have a website and have provided physical contact information, they are reputed, and properly licensed.
- Store your credit card statements safely.
- Check your credit card statement every time you receive it, and make sure there are no unauthorized charges.
- Keep your credit name, bank information, phone number, etc., separate and in a secure place. If your credit card is lost or stolen, inform the bank immediately.
- If you find any discrepancies in your credit card statement regarding charges, notify the credit card issuer within 60 days of receiving the statement. Provide your name, account number, the charge you believe is incorrect, and provide the reason why.

Many times, if you are buying something from a large company, they may bill from their headquarters or a different location. Some online shopping websites use other vendors for billing. Therefore, if the amount of charge and the date of charge match, it is most likely a valid charge.