

BE ALERT TO ONLINE SCAMMERS

Warning signs

- An item is advertised on an online classifieds site at a very low price, often lower than comparable items advertised on the same website.
- The seller often claims to be overseas.
- For online auction scams, the seller will ask you to complete the sale outside of the auction site, e.g. by electronic funds transfer or a wire service.
- Following payment you may receive a fake email receipt falsely claiming to be from the auction website's secure payment provider.

Protect yourself

- Be cautious—if the advertised price of an item looks too good to be true, it probably is.
- Don't trust the legitimacy of an ad just because it appears on a reputable online classifieds or auction website—scammers post fake ads in these too.
- Where possible, avoid any arrangement with a stranger who asks for up-front payment via money order, wire transfer or international funds transfer. It is rare to recover money sent by this method.
- Do an internet search using the exact wording in the ad. Many well-known scams can be found this way.
- Request a number of photos of the item from the seller. If they refuse, it may be that they have stolen a photo from a genuine ad and have no others.

Report

You can report a scam to the ACCC via the [report a scam](#) page on SCAMwatch or by calling 1300 795 995.