



“How to Identify and Avoid



Facebook Marketplace Scams”

Icons Relate to the Following:

-  **Warning**
-  **Marketplace Safety**
-  **Verify**
-  **Message Safety**
-  **Payment Safety**
-  **Phone Safety**
-  **Protection**
-  **Account Security**
-  **Too Good to Be True**
-  **Report It**

Key Points

-  Facebook Marketplace attracts scammers because of its size and trusted brand.
-  Criminals sell items they never deliver, often using stolen photos.
-  Scammers push buyers to use **untraceable payment apps** or gift cards.
-  Many scams involve **undelivered items**, fake vehicles, or inflated “extra fees.”
-  Fake email notifications claim payment problems to lure you into clicking harmful links.
-  Fraudsters also target **sellers**, using fake payment confirmations or overpayment scams.
-  Some scams involve fake Zelle “upgrade fees” that don’t exist.
-  Both buyers and sellers face pressure tactics designed to rush decisions.
-  Facebook’s protections only apply when using **Facebook Checkout**, not outside payment apps.

How to Protect Yourself

-  Research sellers or buyers — check profiles, reviews, and activity.
-  Avoid deals that seem **too good to be true**.
-  Keep communication **inside Facebook Messenger** for a record.
-  Never use gift cards or hard-to-trace payment apps for purchases.
-  Verify any payment-related emails by checking your **Facebook payment history**, not links.
-  Meet in **public places** or police-designated safe-exchange zones.
-  Avoid accepting personal checks; they can take weeks to be flagged as fake.
-  Be cautious of buyers or sellers who pressure you to act immediately.
-  Review Facebook’s Marketplace safety tips before buying or selling.



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SOS If You Think You Were Scammed

- 📞 Report the buyer or seller directly through Facebook’s reporting tools.
- ☎️ Call the **AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline (877-908-3360)** for support.
- 📄 File a report with the **AARP Scam Tracking Map** to help others.
- 💳 Contact your bank or credit-card company if you sent money.
- 🔒 Change passwords if you shared login information.
- 🛠️ Review your device for malware if you clicked suspicious links.
- 📱 Keep screenshots and records of conversations for investigators.

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