

PayPal's Buyer Protection Program

Last Updated: 28 May 2024

PayPal's Buyer Protection

When you buy something from a seller who accepts PayPal, you may be eligible for a refund under PayPal's Buyer Protection program, which terms and conditions are set forth herein and form part of the [user agreement](#). When applicable, PayPal's Buyer Protection program entitles you to reimbursement for the full purchase price of the item plus the original shipping costs you paid, if any. PayPal determines, in its sole discretion, whether your claim is eligible for the Buyer Protection program based on the eligibility requirements, any information or documentation provided during the resolution process, or any other information PayPal deems relevant and appropriate under the circumstances. PayPal's original determination is considered final, but you may be able to file an appeal of the decision with PayPal if you have new or compelling information not available at the time of the original determination or you believe there was an error in the decision-making process.

IMPORTANT: You may be required to return the item to the seller or other party we specify as part of the settlement of your claim. PayPal Buyer Protection does not entitle you to reimbursement for the return shipping costs that you may incur.

PayPal Buyer Protection may apply when you encounter these specific problems with a transaction:

- You didn't receive your item from a seller (referred to as an "Item Not Received" claim), or
- You received an item, but the item isn't what you ordered (referred to as a "Significantly Not as Described" claim).

If you believe that a transaction made through your PayPal account was not authorized by you, this type of claim is different from PayPal Buyer Protection, and is described under [Resolving Problems](#).

QR Code Transactions

If you buy something from a seller in-person by using a PayPal goods and services QR code, your transaction may be eligible for PayPal Buyer Protection.

Item Not Received claims

Your claim **will not** qualify for a refund under PayPal Buyer Protection for an Item Not Received claim, if:

- You collect the item in person, or arrange for it to be collected on your behalf, including if you use PayPal in a seller's retail point of sale, except for in-person [PayPal QR code](#) goods and services transactions.
- The seller has provided [proof of delivery](#).

If the seller presents evidence that they delivered the goods to you, PayPal may find in favor of the seller for an Item Not Received claim even if you claim you did not receive the goods.

Significantly Not as Described claims

An item may be considered Significantly Not as Described if:

- The item is materially different from the seller's description of it.
- You received a completely different item.
- The condition of the item was misrepresented. For example, the item was described as "new" but the item was used.
- The item was advertised as authentic but is not authentic (i.e. counterfeit).
- The item is missing major parts or features and those facts were not disclosed in the description of the item when you bought it.
- You purchased a certain number of items but didn't receive them all.
- The item was damaged during shipment.
- The item is unusable in its received state and was not disclosed as such.

An item may not be considered Significantly Not as Described if:

- The defect in the item was correctly described by the seller in its description of the item.
- The item was properly described but you didn't want it after you received it.
- The item was properly described but did not meet your expectations.
- The item has minor scratches and was described as "used."

Ineligible items and transactions

The following items or transactions are not eligible under PayPal Buyer Protection:

- Real estate, including residential property.
- Vehicles, including, but not limited to, motor vehicles, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, aircraft and boats, except for personally portable light vehicles used for recreational purposes like bicycles and wheeled hoverboards.
- Businesses (when you buy or invest in a business).

- Industrial machinery used in manufacturing.
- Payments equivalent to cash, including stored value items such as gift cards and pre-paid cards.
- Payments made in respect of gold (whether in physical form or in exchange-traded form).
- Financial products or investments of any kind.
- Non-fungible tokens (NFTs).
- Gambling, gaming and/or any other activity with an entry fee and a prize.
- Donations including payments on crowdfunding platforms as well as payments made on crowdlending platforms.
- Payments to a state-run body (except for state-owned enterprises), or third parties acting on behalf of state-run bodies or government agencies.
- Payments sent using PayPal to any bill payment service.
- **Significantly Not as Described** claims for wholly or partly custom-made items.
- **Item Not Received** claims for physical, tangible items you collect in person or arrange to be collected on your behalf. This includes items bought in a retail point of sale location, except if you paid for the transaction in-person using [PayPal QR code](#) for goods and services.
- Anything prohibited by PayPal's [Acceptable Use Policy](#).
- Payments made using PayPal Payouts (formerly Mass Pay).
- Personal Payments including payments sent using PayPal's friend and family functionality.
- Payments that you have not sent using your PayPal account.
- Items intended for resale, including single item transactions or transaction that include multiple items.

Transaction eligibility for PayPal Buyer Protection

To be eligible for PayPal Buyer Protection you must meet all of the following requirements:

- Have a PayPal account in good standing.
- Pay for the eligible item from your PayPal account.
- Attempt to contact the seller to resolve your issue directly before filing a claim under PayPal Buyer Protection through the [Resolution Center](#).
- Respond to PayPal's request for documentation and other information within the time requested.

- Open a dispute in the **Resolution Center** within the **applicable timeframe** and follow our **online dispute resolution process**.
- Not have received a recovery or agreed to an alternative resolution related to your purchase from another source.

Our online dispute resolution process

If you're unable to resolve a transaction related issue directly with a seller, you must follow our online dispute resolution process through the **Resolution Center** to pursue a claim under PayPal Buyer Protection. You may also file a claim (Step 2 below) by calling us and speaking to an agent. The steps you must follow are described below, and if you do not follow these steps your claim may be denied:

Step 1: Open a dispute within the **applicable timeframe**. This might allow you to start a direct conversation with the seller regarding your issue with the transaction that may help resolve the dispute. If you are unable to resolve the dispute directly with the seller, proceed to Step 2. We will place a **hold** on all funds related to the transaction in the seller's PayPal account until the dispute is resolved or closed.

Step 2: Escalate the dispute to a claim for reimbursement within 20 days after opening the dispute, if you and the seller are unable to come to an agreement, or we will automatically close the dispute. You can escalate the dispute to a claim for reimbursement through the **Resolution Center**. The seller or PayPal may also escalate the dispute to a claim at this point. If you are making an Item Not Received claim, PayPal may ask you to wait at least seven days from the dispute filing date to escalate the dispute.

Step 3: Respond to PayPal's requests for documentation or other information, after you, the seller or PayPal escalates your dispute to a claim for reimbursement. PayPal may require you to provide receipts, third party evaluations, police reports or other documents that PayPal specifies. You must respond to these requests in a timely manner as requested in our correspondence with you.

Step 4: Comply with PayPal's shipping requests in a timely manner, if you're filing a Significantly Not as Described claim. PayPal may require you, at your expense, to ship the item back to the seller, to PayPal or to a third party (which will be specified by PayPal) and to provide proof of delivery.

Step 5: PayPal will make a final decision (including automatically closing any dispute or claim), in its sole discretion, based on the eligibility requirements set forth above, any additional information provided during the online dispute resolution process or any other information PayPal deems relevant and appropriate under the circumstances.

Opening Disputes: Timeframes

Claim Type	Timeframe
Item Not Received	Dispute must be opened within 180 days of the date you sent the payment to the seller.

Significantly Not as Described	Dispute must be opened (i) within 30 days of the date of delivery or fulfilment (as applicable) of an order or (ii) within 180 days of the date you sent the payment to the seller, whichever is sooner.
Unauthorized Transactions and Other Errors	Refer to the user agreement for applicable timeframes.

Dispute with us or your card issuer

If you used a debit or credit card as the payment method for a transaction through your PayPal account and you are dissatisfied with the transaction, you may be entitled to dispute the transaction with your card issuer. Applicable card chargeback rights may be broader than those available to you under PayPal Buyer Protection program. For example, if you dispute a transaction with your card issuer, you may be able to recover amounts you paid for unsatisfactory items even if they don't qualify for protection under a [Significantly Not as Described](#) claim with us.

You must choose whether to pursue a dispute with PayPal under PayPal Buyer Protection, or to pursue the dispute with your card issuer. You can't do both at the same time or seek a double recovery. If you pursue a dispute/claim with us and you also pursue a dispute for the same transaction with your card issuer, we'll close your dispute/claim with us. This won't affect the dispute process with your card issuer. In addition, if you pursue a dispute with your card issuer, you cannot pursue a dispute/claim with us later.

If you choose to dispute a transaction with PayPal and we decide against you, you can seek to pursue the dispute with your card issuer later. If PayPal does not make a final decision on your claim until after your card issuer's deadline for filing a dispute, and because of our delay you recover less than the full amount you would have been entitled to recover from the card issuer, we will reimburse you for the remainder of your loss (minus any amount you have already recovered from the seller or your card issuer).

Before contacting your card issuer or filing a dispute with PayPal, you should contact the seller to attempt to resolve your issue in accordance with the seller's return policy.