

Work-at-Home Scams: They Just Don't Pay.

Want an easy way to earn extra money from the comfort of your own home? You're not alone. Working at home has become increasingly attractive. Unfortunately, as the number of jobs grows in response to public interest, so have bogus job offers.

U.S. Postal Inspectors warn that, before you accept a work-at-home job, proceed with caution.

Most work-at-home jobs don't guarantee regular, salaried employment. Many neglect to mention that you have to work many hours without pay. Others require that you spend your own money for products or instructions before finding out how the offer works. And the "work" may entail getting others to sign up for the same job--which continues the fraud.

Work-at-home scams have cost victims thousands of dollars. Check out all jobs before responding. Legitimate companies provide information in writing.

U.S. Postal Inspectors offer these tips:

- Don't give out personal information to a person or company you don't know.
- Be suspicious of any offer that doesn't pay a regular salary or involves working for an overseas company.
- Check the company with the [FTC](#), [Better Business Bureau](#), or state Attorney General.



Classic work-at-home scams include:

- envelope stuffing
- product assembly or craft work
- medical billing
- reshipping

The newest scam? Reshipping fraud.

Work-at-home shippers are promised substantial amounts of money. All they have to do is receive, repackage, and then mail merchandise to a foreign address. What the shipper doesn't know is that the merchandise was paid for with stolen credit cards. In effect, the work-at-home shipper becomes part of a fencing operation by receiving and mailing stolen goods.