Who knew there are so many scams out in the world? We all think “No Way am I going to fall for a scam”

But a lot pf people are and by the time they realize it’s too late.

 A detailed report of Scam Research is available on the Better Business Bureau web page <https://www.bbb.org/scamtracker>

[**Puppy Scams**](https://www.bbb.org/article/news-releases/23354-bbb-study-update-puppy-scams-rising-in-2020)

In the current digital age, it is no surprise that the first step in many people’s search for a new pet begins with the internet. Alas, even the most careful online search is likely to put a consumer in contact with a potential thief. Just get a rescue dog please

[**Online Shopping Fraud**](https://www.bbb.org/all/scamstudies/fake_online_retailers_study)

A BBB study finds pandemic and global supply chain crises, along with lax social commerce shopping platforms, opens the door for scammers in China to steal from desperate online shoppers.

[**Cryptocurrency Scams**](https://www.bbb.org/all/scamstudies/cryptocurrency_scams)

BBB study finds lack of regulation and consumer education results in dramatic increase in fraud and financial losses.

**Payday Loan Scams & Predatory Lending**

BBB study finds uneven laws and stolen data allow predatory payday loan companies and scammers to thrive.

[**Job Scams**](https://www.bbb.org/all/scamstudies/jobscams)

This BBB study finds job scams increased during pandemic and warns job seekers to verify employment offers to avoid illegal jobs, identity theft and bogus fees

**Sweepstakes, Lottery, and Prize Scams**

Sweepstakes, lottery and prize scams are among the most serious and pervasive frauds operating today. Scammers use social media channels as a main way of targeting their victims, and also mail, email, cold calls and internet pop-ups.

**Gift Card Scams**

Gift card payment scams: Why do scammers love gift cards so much? Scammers now often ask victims to pay through Cash App or Zelle. In addition, BBB is beginning to receive reports where victims are asked to insert cash into Bitcoin ATMs, and that payment method is a growing concern.

Providing the numbers from the back of a gift card is just like sending cash. Whether victims give the numbers over the phone or text a photo of the back of the card, they are essentially handing money to scammers, who may quickly drop the funds into foreign bank accounts. It’s nearly impossible to get the money back because gift cards do not have the same protections as credit or debit cards.

**Virtual Vehicle Vendor Scams**

Virtual shipper and escrow scams are growing as demand increases for online vehicle purchases.

**Government Impostor Scams**

Government scams have become more diverse and more sophisticated. Scammers pose as CDC officials, IRS reps, and contact tracers.

**Know Your Mover!**

Movers price gouge, take belongings hostage, and destroy goods.

**Is That Rental Listing Real?**

An in-depth investigative study by Better Business Bureau, (BBB) finds that fraud is widespread in the online rental home and vacation rental market, with 43% of online shoppers encountering a fake listing and more than 5 million consumers losing money to such scams.

[**Explosion of BEC Scams**](https://www.bbb.org/all/scamstudies/bec_scams)

If your boss sends you an email, would you ignore it? Scammers know you probably won't, and that has helped them bilk businesses and other organizations out of $3 billion since 2016 through email scams and attempt another $23 billion.

[**Online Romance Scams**](https://www.bbb.org/all/scamstudies/online_romance_scams)

Romance scam victims may be male or female, young or old, straight or gay. The common denominator for victims is that they believe in true love, and they believe they have found it.

[**Tech Support Scams**](https://www.bbb.org/all/scamstudies/tech_support_scams)

Growing numbers of people are being victimized by networks of thieves posing as skilled computer technicians who operate from the shadows, using sophisticated advertising and carefully crafted sales techniques to scare consumers into buying phony fixes for their home and business computers.

**Fake Check Scams**

If someone calls and asks for money, you might be skeptical. But what if the person sends you a check in advance, you cash the check, and your bank tells you that money is in your account? Sounds like a safe deal, especially if it is a cashier's check, which is as good as gold. Right? Wrong.

**Free Trial Scams**

You’ve seen them on the internet: ads or links leading to pictures of celebrities and products that sound intriguing. The ads claim these “miracle” products will help you lose weight easily, combat wrinkles or whiten teeth. Often, fraudulent operations involved with these types of ads employ the latest internet marketing techniques and professional looking websites.

**Money Mule Scams**

Online dating sites report a surge in activity in the days before Valentine’s Day, as many singles use technology to find a match. Behind many dating profiles lurk scammers who are ready to dupe users into believing they have found love. In reality, romance fraudsters want to steal their money or make them unwitting accomplices in fraud.

**Counterfeit Goods**

Better Business Bureau has received thousands of complaints from people who have shopped for goods online and received counterfeits instead of what they ordered. Sales of counterfeit goods have exploded worldwide in recent years, and many of them pose significant health and safety risks.