

Frustrated with Online Ordering? Read On . .

The reality is that these days we are able to shop at lots of stores that are located elsewhere -- technology makes that possible. Everyone -- buyers and sellers -- must do their best to understand how it works and to operate it properly.

Here are a few culprits that may be driving you nuts :

1. If you are ordering a product at work, you may be locked out of store sites by your employer. Many companies have blocks to online stores on their company computers to prevent employees from shopping during work hours.
2. You may have old software on your computer. That means you may have an out-of-date browser -- Explorer, Firefox, Safari. Online stores have to maintain the most current software or else it costs them business, but many customers do not update their software as frequently and so sometimes the age spread of the different programs is too long and the versions are incompatible. You should make sure you have the most current browser version all the time; browser updates are free.
3. Make sure you take the time and seek assistance to learn how shopping carts work. If you use a credit card, make sure you fill out the whole form and only click the 'submit' button once to prevent a double charge. Do not get impatient while it processes. Your local library, community center or community college may have someone to assist you to learn the online shopping conventions.
4. Many businesses use PayPal since it is the most secure way to assure that both seller and buyer are protected in the transaction. It's very helpful to businesses if you would use PayPal and it makes the process quicker for the buyer. Go to PayPal.com and get a PayPal account. Again, take the time to learn it -- it's easy.
5. If you have accounts with different online businesses, please make a list of your login emails and/or passwords. If you put in a new or different email, you may not be able to complete your transaction quickly. Creating multiple accounts at the same store site makes it difficult to track your order and hinders customer service when you need it most. If you aren't sure of your login status, put in your email address and hit "forgot password" at the login window.