## Payment Gateways

A payment gateway is a service that allows a merchant to accept credit card payments securely online through their Shopify store Shopify connects to over 70 different payment gateways across the world. A merchant must have a payment gateway if they'd like to accept credit card payment - depending on the gateway they choose, there may be a small application process.

Funds transfer from a customers' credit card directly to a merchant's financial institution. How long this takes will vary greatly depending on the merchant's setup.

Shopify Payments is our in-house payment gateway - it is the simplest way to accept payments online.

- Shopify Payments comes fully integrated with the store and includes a wide variety of functions that let a merchant manage their entire business and financials in one place.
- Shopify Payments is currently available in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

Some payment gateways (such as PayPal Express) are external, which means that the customer must be directed away from Shopify to complete their checkout.

- If possible, it's much easier to use a direct payment gateway rather than an external one, so that the customer completes the transaction within the store.
- Using a direct gateway will provide the customers with a seamless shopping experience.