

GIFT CARDS ARE LIKE MONEY.

Don't **THROW
YOUR MONEY
AWAY!**

- ▶ Read the fine print. If you don't like the terms and conditions, buy a card elsewhere.
- ▶ Ask about expiration dates and fees. This information may appear on the card itself, on the accompanying sleeve or envelope, or on the issuer's website. If you don't see it, ask for it. Make sure that whatever the salesperson tells you is in writing.
- ▶ Treat gift cards like cash. If your card is lost or stolen, report it to the issuer immediately. You may be out the entire amount on the card. Some issuers will not replace the cards, while others will replace them for a fee.
- ▶ If your card expires before you've had a chance to use it or exhaust its value, contact the issuer. They may extend the date, although they may charge a fee to do that.
- ▶ Whatever you find out about the gift card should be passed along to the gift recipient so they too know what they have and how to use it so they don't lose out on any of the benefits.



**CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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Promoting Confident Consumers and Responsible Traders

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