



## Scam Artists Target New Payment Methods

Crooks get their victims' money in many different ways and they're always looking for new payment systems to exploit. Now some fraudsters are targeting MoneyPak®, a product that consumers can use to transfer money to prepaid cards or make transactions with approved MoneyPak partners. You can use MoneyPak with confidence and avoid fraud by recognizing the tell-tale signs of these scams.

### **The sweepstakes or lottery pitch**

- You receive a phone call, a letter or an email notifying you that you've won millions in a sweepstakes or lottery. All you need to do to claim your winnings is send money to pay for taxes, bonding, or some other fee. Unfortunately, you don't realize that this is *not* how legitimate sweepstakes or lotteries work – you should never have to pay to claim your prize!
- You're instructed to go to a store that carries MoneyPak, buy a MoneyPak and load the amount of money needed on it.
- The next step is to give the crook the MoneyPak number off the back of the MoneyPak. Sometimes the victim will be asked to send the MoneyPak itself, but that's not necessary – all the crook needs is the MoneyPak number in order to transfer the money that's on the MoneyPak to a prepaid card.
- The crook takes the prepaid card to an ATM and gets the cash. Now the crook has your money, and you're never going to get your prize!

### **The buying online scam**

- You see something online that you want to buy. It's just what you were looking for! The seller will only take payment through MoneyPak.
- If the seller was an approved MoneyPak partner, that would be no problem. But what you don't realize is that it's a crook, not a company that MoneyPak has arranged with to accept payments via MoneyPak.
- The instructions are the same as in the sweepstakes and lottery scenarios. You get the MoneyPak, put the amount of the purchase on it, and give the MoneyPak number to the crook.
- Now you're out the money and the merchandise is never going to arrive!

### **Understand how MoneyPak works**

- Once you put money on a MoneyPak, you can call 1-800-Green Dot or go online to [www.moneypak.com](http://www.moneypak.com) and transfer those funds to a prepaid card that works with MoneyPak.
- You can also use it to make purchases from approved MoneyPak partners or to pay bills or add money to accounts with them.
- Remember, your MoneyPak number is the same as cash. If someone who isn't on the approved MoneyPak partner list wants your MoneyPak number, it's a scam!

Watch the video about these scams on Consumer Federation of America's website at [www.consumerfed.org/fraud](http://www.consumerfed.org/fraud). To learn more about how MoneyPak works and see the list of approved MoneyPak partners, go to [www.moneypak.com](http://www.moneypak.com).