

Stockpile Sales: Don't Put Yourself at Risk

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is...

The sales of excess products purchased with coupons are known as stockpile sales. On the surface, it appears that extreme couponers have managed to get so many great deals that they just have too much product and want to "share the wealth" by selling their surplus purchases. The reality might be quite different.

Potential Health Risk

People who purchase items from stockpile sales, which often take place in a basement, garage, or flea market, put their health at risk. Stockpile sellers aren't regulated like retailers are. They may sell expired product or store product in direct sunlight or at high temperatures. This can cause products to lose efficacy due to the breakdown of their formulations, or even become a health risk.

Retailers, on the other hand, have well-documented supply chains, are required to meet national and local health standards, and have a great deal at stake to lose in the event of a product handling issue, which is why they go to great lengths to ensure the quality and storage of the products they sell. They also take precautions to avoid the sale of counterfeit products. The same is not true for an extreme couponer selling products from their basement, garage, or flea market. Is the potential of saving a few dollars worth the risk of putting your health or the health of your family in jeopardy? Consumers should avoid stockpile sales for this reason alone.

Counterfeit Coupons

There have been several instances where people have used counterfeit coupons to steal products for the purpose of stockpiling items to sell. Simply put, consumers purchasing products from these people are buying stolen property.

Theft by Deception

Some extreme couponers have been known to take advantage of occasional weaknesses in coupons' barcodes and retailers' cash registers to intentionally purchase products other than those specified by the terms and conditions specified by the coupon .

This is not merely a simple mistake; it is an intentional act, similar to price tag switching or shoplifting. Once again, consumers purchasing items from stockpiles created by this method are buying stolen property.

Coupon Policies

Most manufacturers prohibit the use of their coupons for the purpose of buying products for resale. Violations of these policies may result in retailers not getting paid for coupons they accept from stockpile sellers. Manufacturers may also attempt to reduce their losses by issuing fewer and less valuable coupons, making it more difficult for honest consumers to find good deals.

Depending on the location and the circumstances, there are several other potential legal issues associated with stockpile sellers, including but not limited to tax evasion, zoning violations and being neighborhood nuisances.

What can you do to protect yourself?

1. Never buy consumer product goods from stockpile, garage or flea market sellers.
2. Do not confront stockpile sellers.
3. Report stockpile sellers to your local law enforcement agency.

A recent media report on stockpile sales is available at:

<http://www.kcwy13.com/content/news/Selling-Coupon-Stockpiles-422649824.html>

Remember, stockpiles sales are never worth it, so don't put you and your family at risk. Never forget, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.