



New Business Seller Guide

Roadmap to Success



October 2012



Ready: Start Your Engine

- Register as a business on eBay and get access to exclusive services
- Create a seller account and verify your business information
- Calculate the lowest fees and choose the right subscription level
- Select your payment methods and sign up for PayPal

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Set: Get Your Bearings

- Get tips and best practices in the Seller Information Center
- Size up the competition in search results, completed listings, and Marketplace Research
- Choose the right listing format to maximize your selling price
- Learn the rules of the road with eBay Policies and Seller Protection
- Understand the importance of feedback and detailed seller ratings (DSRs)
- Build your brand with eBay Stores and an About Me page
- Read your personalized seller newsletter each month and network with other sellers to keep up to date

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Go: Accelerate Your Sales

- Experiment with a variety of formats
- Write great titles with relevant keywords and describe items completely (including flaws)
- Include up to 12 clear, well-lit photos from multiple angles on a neutral background
- Price items competitively and offer free shipping or combined shipping discounts
- Use item specifics and product details to create complete listings
- Sell more with Best Offer, Buy It Now, and multi-variation listings
- Monitor success with your seller dashboard and eBay Sales Reports Plus
- Measure traffic with counters, Listing Analytics, and Store Traffic Reports

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Winner's Circle: Earn eBay Top Rated seller status and rewards

- Complete 100 transactions with \$1,000 in sales from US buyers
- Maintain 98% of better positive feedback
- Maintain low rates of 1s and 2s on DSRs and Buyer Protection cases from US buyers
- Specify 1-day handling, upload tracking by end of next business day, and offer minimum 14-day returns with money-back option
- Answer emails quickly, stay positive, and add a personal touch

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**Get a FREE
business
consultation**

The eBay Seller Outreach team is committed to helping you succeed.

Get personalized, practical advice to help you boost efficiency, optimize listings, and earn maximum rewards.

Space is limited, so schedule your call today: www.scheduleonline.com/ebay

This service is available to established businesses and professional sellers of all levels, including eBay PowerSellers, eBay Top Rated sellers and eBay Stores subscribers.



Ready: Start Your Engine



With more than 100 million active users globally, eBay is the world's largest online marketplace. Over \$60 billion worth of goods were sold on the site worldwide in 2011—that's more than \$2,000 per second!

Whether you're interested in starting a new business or expanding your existing business with an additional online sales channel, this guide will put you on the fast track to success.

Put eBay to work for your business

To get started and tap into the power of the marketplace, you'll need to:

- 1. Register as a business.** It's free and simple to [register as a business](#) on eBay—plus, it gives you access to exclusive services designed specifically to help you sell more and achieve eBay Top Rated seller status.
- 2. Create a seller account.** When you [create your seller account](#), you'll verify your contact information and select appropriate payment methods

Choose the right subscription level

Choose the pricing structure that works best for the way you sell: Standard fees with a free Auction-style listing option or an eBay Stores subscription package with discounted insertion fees for Fixed Price and discounted Auction-style final value fee rates. The Fee Illustrator tool can help you decide.

Get the lowest listing fees with an eBay Stores subscription

Choose from three eBay Stores subscription levels:

Basic	Premium	Anchor
20¢ Fixed Price Insertion Fees	5¢ Fixed Price Insertion Fees	3¢ Fixed Price Insertion Fees
Consider a Basic Store if you list more than 50 Fixed Price or Auction-style items per month. It's a great starter package to ramp up your selling.	If you're a higher volume seller with more than 250 items per month, or if you list in both Auction-style and Fixed Price, a Premium Store may be right for you. Subscribers must meet minimum performance standards for all sellers.	If you're a higher volume seller who wants top savings and the lowest package rates on eBay, an Anchor Store may be right for you. Subscribers must meet minimum performance standards for all sellers.
\$15.95 per month	\$49.95 per month	\$299.95 per month

Go to www.eBay.com/FeeIllustrator. As a professional seller with the goal of growing your business, consider some of the following benefits of an eBay Store subscription package:

Cost-effective pricing based on your selling activity

- Insertion fees as low as 3¢ for Fixed Price listings
- Discounted Auction-style final value fee rates

Powerful marketing management tools (FREE)

- A customized storefront where buyers can see all of your listings in one place
- A unique URL that promotes your Store online and offline to attract repeat business
- FREE Selling Manager Pro with Premium and Anchor subscriptions
- Great marketing tools like Markdown Manager, advanced cross-promotion opportunities, and email newsletters



Ready: Start Your Engine

Select your payment methods

When it's time to pay for an item, buyers prefer a predictable online experience. For seamless transaction, accept payment using of the these [approved options](#):

PayPal. Get paid instantly with [PayPal](#), the preferred way to accept fast, secure payments on eBay. PayPal lets buyers pay quickly using a credit card or bank account, without sharing their financial information. You get a secure online payment and free tools to help better manage your sales.

Internet merchant account. Accept credit or debit cards directly during eBay Checkout by opening an Internet merchant account with your bank or an authorized service provider. Transaction fees may vary, so be sure to compare several options. If your business already has an account for off-eBay transactions, select the cards you accept in your payment preferences.

Payment on pick-up. You're required to offer at least one electronic payment method, but you can allow payment on pick-up.

Paper payments (restricted). Checks and money orders are allowed in these categories only: vehicles categories in Motors, capital equipment categories in Business & Industrial, Mature Audiences, and Real Estate.

Goal: Start Your Engine

- ▶ Register as a business on eBay and get access to exclusive services
- ▶ Create your seller account and verify your business information
- ▶ Calculate the lowest fees and choose the right subscription level
- ▶ Select your payment methods and sign up for PayPal



Before selling your first item, spend some time getting to know your way around. The [Seller Information Center](#) is a great place to start. You'll find information that ranges from [Getting Started](#) to [Shipping Tips](#) and [Best Practices for increasing sales](#).

Size Up the Competition

Do you know how much buyers are willing to pay for your items on eBay? What keywords should you use? Research items similar to yours to develop your pricing and selling strategies to get top dollar.

Explore eBay search results. Use the Search box to find items similar to those you plan to sell. What formats are being used? How many results do you see? Now try different keywords. Were the results different? [Best Match](#), our default sort option, prioritizes listings based on the relevancy of the title to the search terms along with several other factors.

Review completed listings. Look at listings that have recently ended to understand how other sellers market and price the same items you plan to sell. To search [completed listings](#), log into your eBay account, go to Advanced Search, enter your keywords, check "Show completed listings only," and click Search.

Try Marketplace Research by Terapeak (30 days FREE). What category should you list in? What are the average selling prices of the items you plan to sell? Find your answers with [Marketplace Research by Terapeak](#). This tool looks at historical market data to help you determine the market value (average selling price) of products you plan to sell, find the best performing keywords and categories for your titles and listings, track products to gauge seasonal demand, monitor your competition, determine the most effective formats and upgrades to help sell specific products, and more.

Discover eBay Certified Providers. Third parties participating in our [Certified Providers](#) program offer a number of tools, at a variety of subscription levels, available to you for in-depth research.

Choose the right selling format for your items

Ignite a bidding war with Auction-style listings or attract buyers who love instant gratification with Buy It Now. With a little research (and experimentation), you'll find which [selling formats](#) are best for your products. Here's how they work:

Auction-style. With this classic way to sell on eBay, buyers bid on your items and the highest bidder wins. Use [Auction-style listings](#) for unique, single quantity, high demand items. It will help you generate buzz, gain exposure, and maximize your selling price. You can also give buyers a "no waiting" option by adding a Buy It Now feature to your Auction-style listings.

Fixed Price. Sell your items at a set Buy It Now price. With [Fixed Price](#), you can list as many similar items as you want (with variables such as sizing, colors, etc.) in a single listing for up to 30 days with one low Insertion Fee. You can also select the Good 'Til Cancelled automatic renewal option. Good 'Til Cancelled listings are recurring 30-day listings where the 30-day Fixed Price listing fee is charged again every 31st day. If you're willing to negotiate, add the Best Offer feature (FREE) to your listing to increase your chances of making the sale. With Best Offer, you can choose from multiple offers and automatically accept, reject, or make counter-offers to make sure you get the price you want—you're in total control.

Learn the rules of the road (eBay Policies)

We take your safety and the safety of our buyers very seriously. To promote a healthy trading environment, we require all members to follow the [policies](#) covered in our user agreement. Learn about eBay's selling policies before you list an item to help you to avoid unintentionally breaking rules.

Avoid restricted/prohibited items.

Familiarize yourself with our general [listing rules](#). Make sure the items you plan to sell aren't [restricted or prohibited](#).

Respect the intellectual properties of others.

List only the brand name of the item you're selling (be prepared to prove authenticity), use your own photos, and report any violations through the [eBay Verified Rights Owner \(VeRO\) program](#).

Charge only actual shipping costs.

Excessive shipping charges lead to poor buying experiences and low detailed seller ratings (DSRs). Price competitively in your category, adhere to the [maximum shipping and handling charge](#) rules, and use the Shipping Calculator to determine actual costs based on your buyer's ZIP code.

Use relevant key words. When writing titles and descriptions, only use popular keywords that accurately describe your items. Keyword spamming is against the rules and could decrease your visibility in search results.

Communicate professionally. Maintain a positive, professional tone, stick to the facts, and respect the [Feedback system](#).



Set: Get Your Bearings

Selling Format	How it works	Length of Listing	Fees
Auction-style	<p>Receive bids on your item and sell to the highest bidder in a fixed length of time.</p> <p>You may also include a Buy It Now price in your listing.</p> <p>Quantity: Offer bidding on one item.</p> <p>Where: Your listing appears in the eBay category (or categories) you choose and in search results.</p>	<p>1, 3, 5, 7, or 10 days.</p> <p>Real estate auctions may also run for 30 days.</p> <p><i>Note: 1-day listings are not available for eBay Motors Vehicles categories in the US or Canada.</i></p>	<p>Insertion fee to list.</p> <p>Final value fee charged based on selling price.</p> <p>See fees for more information.</p>
Fixed Price	<p>You list your items at a set price, so buyers can purchase immediately (no bidding). You may also include the Best Offer option in your Fixed Price listings (not available currently for multi-variation listings). This enables you to consider offers from buyers who will name their best price.</p> <p>Quantity: Offer one or multiple items for sale at the Buy It Now price anytime during the listing.</p> <p>Where: Your listing appears in the eBay category (or categories) you choose and in search results.</p>	<p>3, 5, 7, 10, or 30 days, or</p> <p>Good 'Til Cancelled.</p> <p>Same low insertion fee for up to 30 days.</p> <p><i>Note: Good 'Til Cancelled listings are recurring 30-day listings where the 30-day Fixed Price listing fee is charged again every 31st day.</i></p>	<p>Insertion fee to list.</p> <p>Final value fee charged based on selling price.</p> <p>See fees for more information</p>

Set: Get Your Bearings



A number of seller protections are built right into the eBay process, and we also take actions behind the scenes to insure that your eBay selling activities go as smoothly as possible. Learn more about how eBay protects your business by visiting our [Seller Protection Center](#).

Understand the Feedback system

eBay is a member-to-member marketplace guided by open communication and honesty. You'll [build your reputation](#) through our Feedback system, which allows your trading partners (other buyers and sellers) to leave one rating and comment per transaction.

- A **positive** rating increases your Feedback Score by one point. Positive ratings from repeat customers count (up to one rating from the same buyer per week)
- A **neutral** rating leaves your Feedback Score the same.
- A **negative** rating decreases your Feedback Score by one point.

Your general Feedback Score, a percentage based on your 12-month transaction history, appears in all of your listings. Buyers can click on and view your Feedback Profile to see specific transaction comments and ratings.

Strive for 5-star Service

When buyers leave feedback, they can also rate their experience in four areas: Item as described, communication, shipping time, and shipping and handling charges. These detailed seller ratings (DSRs) are based on a one- to five-star scale. [Five-star ratings](#) are the best, and one star is the lowest rating. Good ratings can help earn you Top Rated seller status, which can provide you with additional fee discounts. Sellers must also

maintain standards by minimizing the number of [1s and 2s they receive on each DSR](#). Be sure to set clear expectations, then surprise and delight your buyers by meeting or exceeding them every time!

Recent Feedback Ratings (last 12 months)				Detailed Seller Ratings (last 12 months)		
	1 month	6 months	12 months	Criteria	Average rating	Number of ratings
Positive	59	431	697	Item as described	★★★★★	503
Neutral	0	1	3	Communication	★★★★★	503
Negative	0	0	0	Shipping time	★★★★★	504
				Shipping and handling charges	★★★★★	506

Build Your Brand

[eBay Stores](#) provide all the tools you need to [build, brand, and customize](#) your listings—with no technical knowledge required. Whether you're just starting out or expanding an existing business, you'll find all the tools and resources you need to present a professionally-branded experience on eBay.

Set up an [About Me](#) page to tell the world about your business, your products, and your areas of expertise. Since you're new to selling on eBay and your Feedback rating doesn't yet reflect your vast experience, it's important to tell buyers about your reputation in the real world and help them get to know you. Your About Me page is free and searchable across the Internet.

Network with Other Sellers

Read your personalized seller newsletter each month and get tips to fine tune your business. Our [Discussion Boards](#) are also some of the best places to get tips from other sellers. With topics ranging from art to clothing and bidding to seller

tools, you can start threads with your questions or ideas and reply to postings with your own answers and advice. You'll also want to bookmark and keep an eye on our [General Announcement Board](#). It'll keep you in-the-know about eBay policies and limited-time Insertion Fee and listing upgrade discounts.

Goal

Get Your Bearings

- ▶ Get tips and best practices in the Seller Information Center
- ▶ Size up the competition in search results, completed listings, and Marketplace Research
- ▶ Choose the right listing format to maximize your selling price
- ▶ Learn the rules of the road with eBay Policies and Seller Protection
- ▶ Understand the importance of feedback and Detailed Seller Ratings (DSRs)
- ▶ Build your brand with eBay Stores and an About Me page
- ▶ Network with other sellers to keep up to date



Go: Accelerate Your Sales

When you're ready to put your pedal to the metal, just click on the "Sell" link at the top of any eBay page to get started!

Create listings that sell

From descriptive titles to listing upgrades, there are many ways to make your listing stand out from the crowd.

Experiment with a variety of listing formats. Even if you've had consistent success with one [listing format](#), it's a good idea to take another for a test drive occasionally to see how it will perform for you. Different types of inventory will sell better in specific formats, depending upon demand, accessibility of product over time, and from season to season.

Optimize your listing title. [Relevant and specific item titles](#) attract buyers. Use up to 80 characters with keywords that most accurately describe your item. Include brand name, condition, and attributes like model or style. For multi-variation listings, search results look at your variation information (size, color, etc.), so you can save titles for other differentiating factors that'll help your items stand out. The easiest way to determine the right keywords is to act like a buyer and search for your product by name. What are the most common keywords on the first page of results? Do they apply to your item? Be sure to check off and review "Completed listings" under the "Show only" menu on the left side of the page to determine which listings are actually the most successful.

Write a great description. Give buyers all the details about the item you are selling. Organize your description into a few concise paragraphs with like information grouped together. The first paragraph should provide the most important details using the key words from your title, including: size, shape, dimensions, color, age, manufacture date, company/artist/author, warranties, and other notable features or markings (including any flaws). Buyers don't mind buying imperfect items, as long as they know what to expect. In a separate paragraph, you may wish to include an interesting story about the item. Finally, you may wish to include extra details that cannot be conveyed using the shipping or payment fields. Be careful not to include overly extensive terms and conditions or negative sounding language as it could frighten potential customers away.

Add pictures. A picture really is worth a thousand words and great photos can often make the sale—especially with the growing number of shoppers on mobile devices. That's why up to 12 pictures per listing are FREE, including zoom and enlarge capabilities, on all listings (excluding eBay Motors vehicles). The more clear, crisp, quality pictures you show, the easier it is for buyers to find your listings and make purchase decisions. Photograph your items at close range from several angles and be sure to show details such as tags, designer labels, or special boxes that help prove authenticity, if appropriate. Visit our [Photo Center](#) for our top tips and tricks.

Price competitively. Use Auction-style the way it works best—with a [low start price](#) to attract buyers and stimulate bidding. For Fixed Price, [price your items competitively](#). Tools like [Marketplace Research by Terapeak](#) can help you get a handle on how other sellers are pricing similar inventory.

Offer free or expedited shipping. Shipping cost and speed are considered in ranking, so [offer free shipping](#) when you can and provide an expedited shipping option for buyers who are willing to pay more to get it fast. We've found that buyers comparing identical items perceive a better value when shipping costs are lower, even if total cost is the same. The [eBay Fast 'N Free](#) logo will also appear on items where you've offered free shipping and we estimate it will reach the buyer within 4 business days.

Use item specifics. List your item's features and attributes by using the [item specifics](#) provided by eBay or customizing them. Item specifics let you provide details about the item you're selling, such as brand, size type, size, color, and style. These details appear at the top of your listing description in a consistent format, making it easy for buyers to find your items.

Use product details from our catalog. When you list certain items in many categories, you can use [product details](#) from our catalog to help you create complete listings that are more visible and appealing to buyers. Just input the relevant UPC or ISBN number and we'll add catalog-based details and a stock photo to your listings automatically. If your item is used or refurbished, use your own photo in the listing description and provide details about any flaws.

Collect appropriate taxes. Because of the complexity of tax regulations, we recommend that you contact a tax professional like a CPA or an accountant for advice. To charge taxes for buyers who live in the state where you do business use the [tax table](#) in the Sell Your Item form.

Close more sales

The following features are available to help you sell more items faster and save on listing fees.

Best Offer (FREE). If you're willing to shave a little off your asking price to increase your sales volume, [add Best Offer to your Fixed Price listings](#). This free feature lets you negotiate price with auto-accept/auto-reject to ensure you get the price you want without any extra effort. It's a great way to boost your sell-through rate while saving on relisting fees. Add Best Offer when you list by going to the Fixed Price tab. Find "Best Offer," then click the check box next to "Allow buyers to make offers."

Buy It Now. Some buyers like the excitement of bidding and winning, while others are willing to pay more for the convenience of buying right away. Get the best of both worlds by adding a [Buy It Now](#) price to your Auction-style listings.

Multi-variation. When you have several sizes or colors of the same product, list them all in a single Fixed Price listing for one low fee. Price each variation just the way you want. Find out which categories support [multi-variation Fixed Price listings](#).

Track Your Success

Use these tools to keep tabs on your sales, see what's working, and identify opportunities to improve.

Monitor your Seller Dashboard (FREE): Each seller with at least 10 DSRs has access to their own [Seller Dashboard](#) through My eBay. This important feature allows you to evaluate your eBay performance with regards to customer satisfaction, policy compliance, and qualification criteria for the PowerSeller program and Top Rated seller status. Check it regularly to track your ratings for each of the four DSR areas, review your opened and unresolved cases, get tips on improving your overall seller performance level, and get alerts on situations that may require immediate attention.

Add traffic counters (FREE). Instantly see how many people are visiting a listing by adding a free [traffic counter](#). Check counters 24 hours after listings go live, and if there are only a few visits, consider updating the keywords in your titles and descriptions.

Analyze your listings (FREE). Increase your sales by gaining insight into how your listings perform—the rate at which buyers see, click, and buy from your listings. The [Listing Analytics application](#) helps you identify specific areas to improve your listings and additional business practices to help your sales.

eBay Sales Reports Plus (FREE): [eBay Sales Reports Plus](#) gives you the detailed information you need by category and format to find out which factors contribute to sales. With detailed metrics, you can refine your selling strategy and effectively scale your business. You can measure your sales performance against your sales goals, find out which factors contribute to sales, spot marketplace trends based on your sales, and track your growth month to month through archived reports.

Get detailed analysis with Store Traffic Reports (FREE for Store subscribers only). [Store Traffic Reports](#) show you where traffic is coming from, which keywords are generating the most attention (so you can use them in your titles and descriptions), and which Store pages buyers are visiting most. Your Store Traffic Reports give a detailed view of all pages within your Store (including any custom pages, custom category pages, search results, and more), all of your Auction-style and Fixed Price listings, and other pages on eBay that are specific to you (Seller's Other Items page, your Membership Profile/Feedback page, About Me) or your listings (including bid and Buy It Now confirmation pages). If you find that more buyers are finding your listings from certain categories or pages, you'll want to focus on optimizing those areas.

View your statements: Every month, we'll send you an email containing your [invoice](#) (if your account balance is greater than \$1), including fees, payments, refunds, and credits. View your invoice in My eBay any time by clicking the Account tab and you'll be able to download your last 4 months of activity to a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.



Go: Accelerate Your Sales

Ramp up your sales with bulk listing and management tools

If you plan to list more than 10 items per month, consider using one of these tools to save time:

Selling Manager (FREE): Monitor your active listings, create email templates, leave feedback, print invoices and shipping labels, and automatically relist items in bulk—all in My eBay—with your free subscription to [Selling Manager](#). For additional product inventory and automation features geared toward high-volume and small business sellers, consider an upgrade to [Selling Manager Pro](#) (FREE for Premium and Anchor Store subscribers).

Turbo Lister (FREE). [Turbo Lister](#) is an easy-to-use software program that lets you create multiple listings on your computer and upload them all to eBay at once. You can create professional-looking listings with no HTML knowledge required, upload thousands of listings to eBay with a single click, duplicate and save existing listings to use as templates, make updates to multiple listings at a time, and quickly reference completed listings

Create a “sale” with Markdown Manager.

Buyers love a deal, so catch their attention by temporarily slashing prices or advertising Free Shipping. [Markdown Manager](#) lets you discount items by a percentage or dollar amount so you can create seasonal sales events to move excess inventory or attract buyers to your Store through “loss leaders” (deeply discounted items that entice buyers into your Store). Promote your savings in email newsletters to increase repeat business and customer loyalty.

eBay File Exchange (FREE). Consider [File Exchange](#) if you use Microsoft Excel, Access, or other inventory software. It’s a platform-independent tool designed for high-volume sellers that lets you create and list items in bulk by uploading a single flat file (Excel or CSV).

Blackthorne Basic/Pro (30-day FREE trial). If you’re planning to sell at least 25 items a month, consider [Blackthorne Basic](#). It lets you create professional listings in bulk, track the status of your sales, and manage buyer communications and feedback—all from your desktop. If you have 2 or more employees, consider [Blackthorne Pro](#). This top-of-the-line tool supports multiple user profiles and includes all the features in Blackthorne Basic plus inventory management, reporting tools, and more.

Third-party solutions. Many [Certified Providers](#) offer bulk listing and sales management tools to help you scale your business on eBay. Certified Providers are carefully screened—among other qualifications, they must have extensive experience with eBay, support the features sellers need most, and provide a number of customer references that we check.

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Accelerate Your Sales

- ▶ Experiment with a variety of listing formats
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- ▶ Sell more with Best Offer, Buy It Now, and multi-variation listings
- ▶ Monitor success with our seller dashboard and eBay Sales Reports Plus
- ▶ Measure traffic with counters, Listing Analytics, and Store Traffic Reports
- ▶ Ramp up your sales with Turbo Lister, Selling Manager, and other tools

Winner's Circle: eBay Top Rated seller



Turbo-charge your eBay business and move into winning position! Buyers expect great service. When they're happy, it builds confidence in the eBay marketplace—and keeps them coming back for more. That's why we reward and recognize sellers delivering the best experiences with eBay Top Rated seller status and rewards.

To achieve and maintain Top Rated seller status you'll need to:

Meet the sales requirements. Have at least 100 transactions and \$1,000 in sales over the past year and follow the [selling practices policy](#).

Earn great ratings. Maintain very few instances of low DSRs (1s and 2s) and [opened and unresolved Buyer Protection cases](#) from US buyers.

Upload tracking. [Upload tracking information](#) to eBay within your stated handling time on 90% of transactions with US buyers. Shipment tracking information is automatically uploaded when you use [eBay Labels](#).

Sellers who consistently deliver a great experience for their buyers earn a prominent badge and the following rewards on their listings that offer 1-day handling and 14 day or longer returns:

- **20% final value fee (FVF) discounts**
- **Greatest average boost in Best Match**

Every PowerSeller in the eBay Community also gets the following benefits:

USPS® Savings. Save up to 32% on postage with the [USPS® Savings Program](#). Platinum/Titanium PowerSellers and eBay Top Rated sellers who use eBay Labels for an average of 2,500+ transactions a month are also eligible for Commercial Plus™ pricing.

UPS® Savings. Save up to 32% off air shipments, up to 25% of international shipments and up to 23% off Ground Shipments through the UPS® [Savings Program for eBay PowerSellers](#).

Visit the Seller Information Center for the complete list of [requirements](#) and [benefits](#).

New this fall:

Top Rated Plus seal. Buyers will see the new Top Rated seal on listings from Top Rated sellers that offer both 1-day handling and 14 day or longer returns with money-back option.



Get 5-star ratings every time

The higher your DSRs, the more successful you'll be and the faster you'll reach Top Rated seller status for rewards and discounts. By following these best practices, you can earn 5-star ratings automatically!

Get automatic 5-stars on

Communication. Most transactions on eBay go smoothly and without any need for contact at all. You'll get an automatic 5-star DSR for Communication on transactions with no communication between buyer and seller when you specify 1-day handling time and upload tracking information by the end of the next business day.

Get automatic 5-stars on Shipping Time.

When you specify 1-day handling time, upload tracking information by the end of the next business day after the buyer's payment clears, and we know your package arrived within 4 business days from when the buyer pays (or arrived by your estimated delivery if that was earlier), eBay will rate the transaction with an automatic 5-star DSR for shipping time.

Get automatic 5-stars on Shipping Cost.

When you offer free shipping and the buyer selects that option, eBay will rate the transaction with an automatic 5-star DSR for shipping cost.



Winner's Circle: eBay Top Rated seller

The most successful businesses on eBay consistently provide the following outstanding services:

Answer emails quickly. Many buyers use email to test your responsiveness and gain trust.

Be courteous. When a buyer does need to contact you, be sure to provide great customer service. DSRs are all about meeting a buyer's expectations, so put yourself in your buyer's shoes and treat them the way you'd like to be treated.

Follow up. If an issue comes up, keep the buyer informed as you take steps to resolve it. They'll feel better knowing that you're on top of things.

Offer discounts on combined shipping. [Offer combined shipping discounts](#) to encourage multiple item purchases.

Take advantage of carrier discounts and pass your savings on to buyers. Use [eBay label printing](#) to get automatic discounts on USPS® Priority Mail® and Express Mail®. eBay Top Rated sellers and sellers with an average of 2,500 or more transactions per month will automatically receive the benefits of the USPS Commercial Plus™ Program and save up to 32% when purchasing postage through eBay Labels!

Ship within 24 hours of receiving payment. Use carrier pickup ([USPS® is free](#)) to save trips to the post office. UPS also offers customers the flexibility to choose from a variety of package [pickup options](#) in the US. Or, find your closest UPS [drop-off locations](#), including nearly 4,400 locations of The UPS Store®.

Always provide tracking numbers. Tracking and delivery confirmation numbers will be added to the Order Details page automatically when you [print shipping labels on eBay](#). You can also [upload tracking](#) for virtually any carrier directly to eBay—for single items in My eBay and for multiple items using [File Exchange](#). If you don't have this information, be sure to at least mark items as shipped in My eBay.

Be proactive. On your packing slip, tell buyers you're available to resolve any issues. For example, "We strive to provide 5-star customer service. If you need help or there's anything we can do to improve, we welcome you to contact us!" This simple message can go a long way toward heading off any potential issues before a claim is made or feedback is left.

Add a personal touch. When you package the item, include a handwritten "Thank you!" on the packing slip or include a [promotional flyer](#) offering a discount on the next purchase to encourage repeat business.

Leave positive feedback. As soon as a buyer's payment clears, leave positive feedback—it encourages them to leave positive feedback in return!

Goal

Earn eBay Top Rated seller status and rewards

- ▶ Complete 100 transactions with \$1,000 in sales from US buyers
- ▶ Maintain 98% or better positive feedback
- ▶ Maintain low rates of 1s and 2s on DSRs and Buyer Protection cases from US buyers
- ▶ Upload tracking to eBay on at least 90% of your transactions to US buyers within your stated handling time
- ▶ Earn discounts on final value fees that specify 1-day handling, and offer minimum 14-day money-back returns
- ▶ Answer emails quickly, stay positive, and add a personal touch

Quick Links to eBay Resources



Congratulations!

You're ready to build your brand and take your business to the next level on eBay. Please print this guide and keep it for your reference. If you have questions, these resources are available anytime at ebay.com/advancedselling.

We wish you success and thank you for selling on eBay!

Resource	URL
Seller Information Center	ebay.com/sellerinformation
Shipping Center	ebay.com/shipping
Photo Center	ebay.com/photocenter
Seller Dashboard	ebay.com/sellerdashboard
eBay Sales Reports (FREE)	ebay.com/salesreports
Listing Analytics Application (FREE)	ebay.com/listinganalytics
Search Engine Optimization	ebay.com/seo
Seller Tools (FREE)	ebay.com/sellertools
Advanced Selling Guide	ebay.com/advancedselling
Marketplace Research by Terapeak (30-day free trial)	ebay.com/marketplaceresearch
eBay Top Rated sellers	ebay.com/toprated
eBay Stores	ebay.com/stores
Discussion Boards	ebay.com/community
General Announcement Boards	ebay.com/announcements
Seller Protection	ebay.com/sellerprotection



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