



Credit Cards - Making Shopping a Breeze

The holiday season is here once again and it's the season for buying gifts and stocking our homes with food and drink. A convenient and safe way of making all these purchases is using your credit or debit cards.

Convenience

Your credit card is a quick and easy way of buying goods and services without carrying around large sums of cash. Also, with the advent of online shopping, a credit or debit card makes the world your store. Purchasing an item online is now even safer with payment agencies like Pay Pal offering safe payment options.

Safety

Credit card use offers the card user a high level of protection. Card companies periodically call card holders if they suspect any fraudulent transactions. If a customer loses his/her card, a quick call to the card company will result in a block being placed on the lost card and a new card is issued. Another level of protection that credit card customers benefit from is that they can decline charges if they are not satisfied with a purchase. Some card issuers even offer insurance on goods and services purchased by credit card.

Record Keeping

By reviewing your credit card statement, you can keep accurate records of all purchases which is very important for budgeting. Instead of having to review various statements and receipts everything will be captured in that one statement.

Perks

At this time of year, most card issuers will have a promotion in which card holders can win prizes, get travel miles or even receive automatic insurance on travel and some items purchased.

So for easy and hassle-free shopping, use your credit or debit card. If you don't already have one, call the Card Services Department of Bank of Saint Lucia at 456-6181 or cardservices@bankofsaintlucia.com.

This is our final Money Talks article for the year. The management and staff of the East Caribbean Financial Holding Company Limited would like wish you all a joyful Christmas and a bright and prosperous 2010.