



Spring Cleaning: Dust Off Those Unused Gift Cards!

With the spring season in full force, now is the perfect time to pull out those gift cards you've been saving for a later day. They are easy and convenient gifts to give throughout the year, so odds are you or someone you know has received one. Some retailers won't honor a gift card after a certain period of time, and consumers who spend less than the face value on an initial visit may find they are unable to use the rest of the balance later.

To ensure Iowa consumers get the full value of their cards, here are some tips:

- Use the card promptly to reduce the likelihood it will be lost, stolen or reduced in value.
- Read the gift card's terms and conditions. Some cards expire, while other companies may charge fees – depleting the value of the card.
- Save the receipt. Keeping the gift card receipt can be helpful if you run into problems with the card.
- Treat gift cards like cash. Report a lost or stolen gift card to the card's issuer immediately.

When you add up all unredeemed gift card balances, it leaves a considerable amount of money retailers or financial institutions are holding. Don't let those gift cards go to waste. If you have questions or concerns regarding an expired gift card, you may contact my office by email at UPReport@tos.iowa.gov.