



Layaway Plans

Ohio and Summit County laws govern the obligations of both merchants and consumers when it comes to layaways. Layaway plans can be a convenient way to buy when you are low on cash; do not have credit or trying to avoid using credit cards. Layaways are different from credit purchases. When you buy on credit, you take the merchandise with you before you pay. When you use a layaway plan, you pay in full through installments before getting the merchandise.

Layaway Plans in Summit County Require:

- ✓ Contain all terms in a signed written agreement.
- ✓ Cannot charge a fee of more than 3% of the cash price of the goods or \$5.00 dollars, whichever is greater.
- ✓ Seller may not increase the price of goods while being held in layaway.
- ✓ Buyer's right to cancel must be clearly set out.



What To Do To Protect Your Layaway:

Be sure to get everything in writing, including how much time you have to pay for your items; when the payments are due; what the minimum payment is; if there is a penalty for late payments; and what charges, if any, are added to the sales price.

Make sure that your down payment is properly credited and that all future payments are updated. Keep copies of all of your payment receipts.

Know the store's refund policy. If you decide you do not want to purchase the merchandise after making a few payments, be aware that you may not get a full refund. Summit County merchants are allowed to retain up to \$25.00 or 10% of the cash price, under certain circumstances. Some stores may issue your refund as a store credit in the form of a gift card while others may give you cash.

Information You Need to Know:

If your purchase is close to the holidays, make sure you know the last day to place an item in layaway for the holidays and the final payment date in order to have your purchase in time.

Call the store ahead of time to determine if there are items which cannot be placed in layaway.

Keep in mind that until you have made your last payment, the store has your money and your goods. If the store goes out of business while you are still paying, your money and merchandise may be lost.