

## Inv - Shill Bidding Policy

**GUIDE.SUMMARY** What Shill bidding happens when anyoneincluding family, friends, roommates, employees, or online connectionsbids on an item with the intent to artificially increase its price or desirability. In addition, members cannot bid on or buy their own items in order to artificially increase a seller's Feedback or to improve the item's search standing. Make sure you follow these guidelines. If you dont, you may be subject to a range of actions, including limits of your buying and selling privileges and suspension of your account. Shill bidding is also illegal in many places and can carry severe penalties.

**GUIDE.RELATED\_LINKS**

Related Help Pages 

- Shill Bidding Policy

  
<http://pages.ebay.com/help/policies/seller-shill-bidding.html>

**GUIDE.TALKING\_POINTS** How am I linked? I didn't Shill Bid.I dont know anyone that placed a bid on my items. 

- Your account was found to have the same or similar
- Contact Information
- Financial Information
- Account Behavior

or other factorswith another account bidding on your items. 

- Due to privacy concerns, I can't give out the specific details that were found to be the same or similar. I am also not permitted to discuss the investigation details of another account unless you appeal from that account.
- I hope that you understand our position in this situation. I also hope that it assures you that your personal account history will always remain private.
- Internal Information

- We arenotable to provide specific information. For example, we can't say that the member is linked by Credit Card or PayPal. We cannot give the specific contact information we used to link the accounts.
- The links that connect 2 or more accounts cannot be appealed as they involve contact and financial information. The member must be sure that anyoneincluding family, friends, roommates, employees, or online connections, are not bidding on their items without completing the sale.

I had every intention of completing this transaction.

- People who know you, such as family members, friends, employees, and roommates are allowed to buy an item from you using Buy It Now. This doesn't involve bidding and won't artificially increase its price or desirability or violate our Feedback manipulation or search and browse manipulation policies.
- While your intention may have been to complete the transaction, you have been found to be in violation of our Shill Bidding policy. Shill Bidding undermines the trust in our marketplace because listing prices are being artificially manipulated. To ensure that buyers' and sellers' trust in eBay's marketplace is appropriately placed, we must take action when a violation of this policy occurs.

Why am I unable to appeal a warning?

- Warnings are considered educational, because we realize you may not have been aware that this activity is against eBay rules.
- The warning remains on the account for tracking should there be an additional violation of this policy.

Why is my account restricted?

- Due to ongoing signs of Shill Bidding on the account, the consequences have increased.
- The first violation was an educational warning, but impacts increase with repeated violations.
- For 3, 7 and 10 day buy/ sell restrictions, inform member of timeframe and that restriction will automatically be removed and any listings unhidden once time expires.

Why is my account restricted from selling when the violation was for bidding, or vice versa?

- Shill bidding happens with both selling and buying accounts. If you were the seller, we also restrict your buying so that you are not able to shill bid on other items and vice versa.

What does Fixed Price only mean for me?

- Selling:** With the Fixed Price format, buyers can purchase your item immediately at a price you set, but they cannot bid on your item. You would be offering one or more items for sale at a Buy It Now price.
- Buying:** You will no longer be able to place bids on auction style listings. You can still purchase items on eBay by using the Buy-it-Now button or by adding listings to the cart.

Note: Fixed price only restriction is permanent

[GUIDE.DETAILED\\_INFORMATION](#)

Internal Information &nbsp; Issue 1016 &lt;ul&gt; &lt;li&gt; Limits members to a Fixed price selling format only. This is placed after multiple shill bidding violations and is a permanent restriction. &lt;/li&gt; &lt;/ul&gt; &nbsp; Issue 396 &lt;ul&gt; &lt;li&gt; Prevents a buyer from bidding on auction style listings. This is placed after multiple shill bidding violations and is a permanent restriction. Members can still purchase items on eBay by using the buy-it-now button or by adding items to the cart. &lt;/li&gt; &lt;/ul&gt; &nbsp; &lt;/h2&gt;