

9 MISTAKES

TO AVOID WHEN SELLING

Your Used Laptop Online



Mistake 01

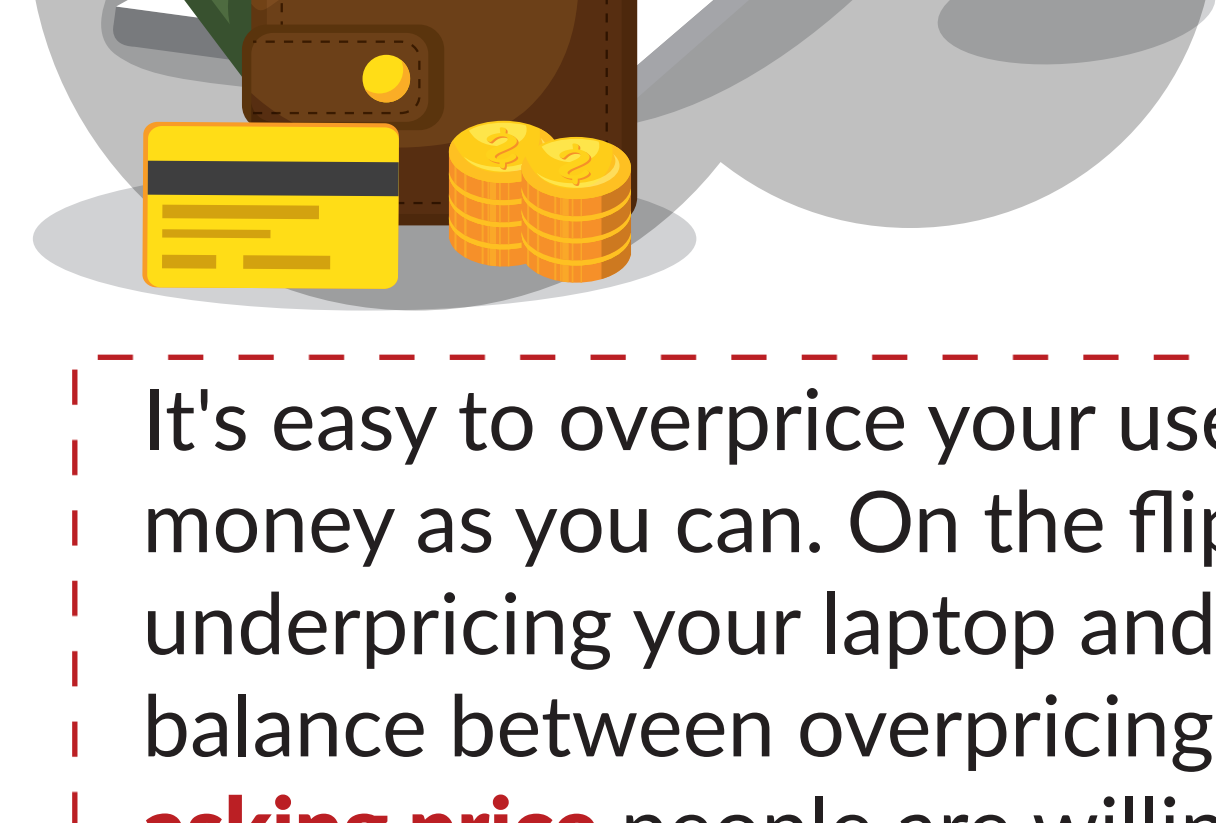
Not testing thoroughly before listing



One of the biggest mistakes you can make when selling a used laptop is **failing to test it thoroughly before creating your online listing**. You should check that all the laptop's main functions are working properly.

First, make sure the laptop powers on and off without any issues. When unplugged, does the battery hold a charge and run the laptop sufficiently? Next, check that the operating system loads correctly and you can connect to the internet without problems.

Also, verify that built-in software and apps open and run smoothly.



Mistake 02

Overpricing the laptop

It's easy to overprice your used laptop. After all, you want to get as much money as you can. On the flip side, you also want to avoid severely underpricing your laptop and leaving money on the table. Finding the balance between overpricing and underpricing gives you a **realistic asking price** people are willing to pay.

Before listing your laptop for sale, do some research to determine the current fair market value for a used model with similar specifications and conditions to yours. A great way to get a pricing reference is to check completed listings for your laptop on **eBay**.

Mistake 03

Posting unclear or blurry photos



The photos you use in your online laptop listing can make or break a sale. **Blurry, dark, or misleading photos are a big mistake**. Take clear, well-lit shots that accurately depict the laptop's current physical condition from multiple angles.

TO HELP YOU TAKE BETTER PICTURES OF YOUR LAPTOP, HERE ARE A FEW KEY TIPS:

Use a bright, natural light source - no flash.

Capture the top, bottom, sides, and open screen.

Include close-ups of any flaws.



Fill the frame - no other objects in the background.

Use the highest resolution camera available.

Adjust exposure if needed - don't overexpose.

Lay the laptop on a clean, solid-colored surface.



Mistake 04

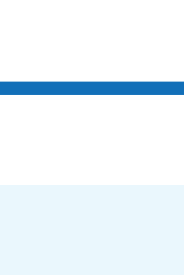
Using Default Return Policies

Online marketplaces offer default return policies for laptop sales that usually favor the buyer. As a seller, relying on default policies can burn you. Before listing your used laptop, **customize the return policy to protect yourself**.

CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS LIKE:

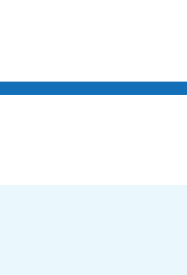
Reduced return window

Change from **30 days** to **14 days**.



Return shipping paid by buyer

Don't offer free returns.



Restocking fee

Charge **10-15%** on returns.



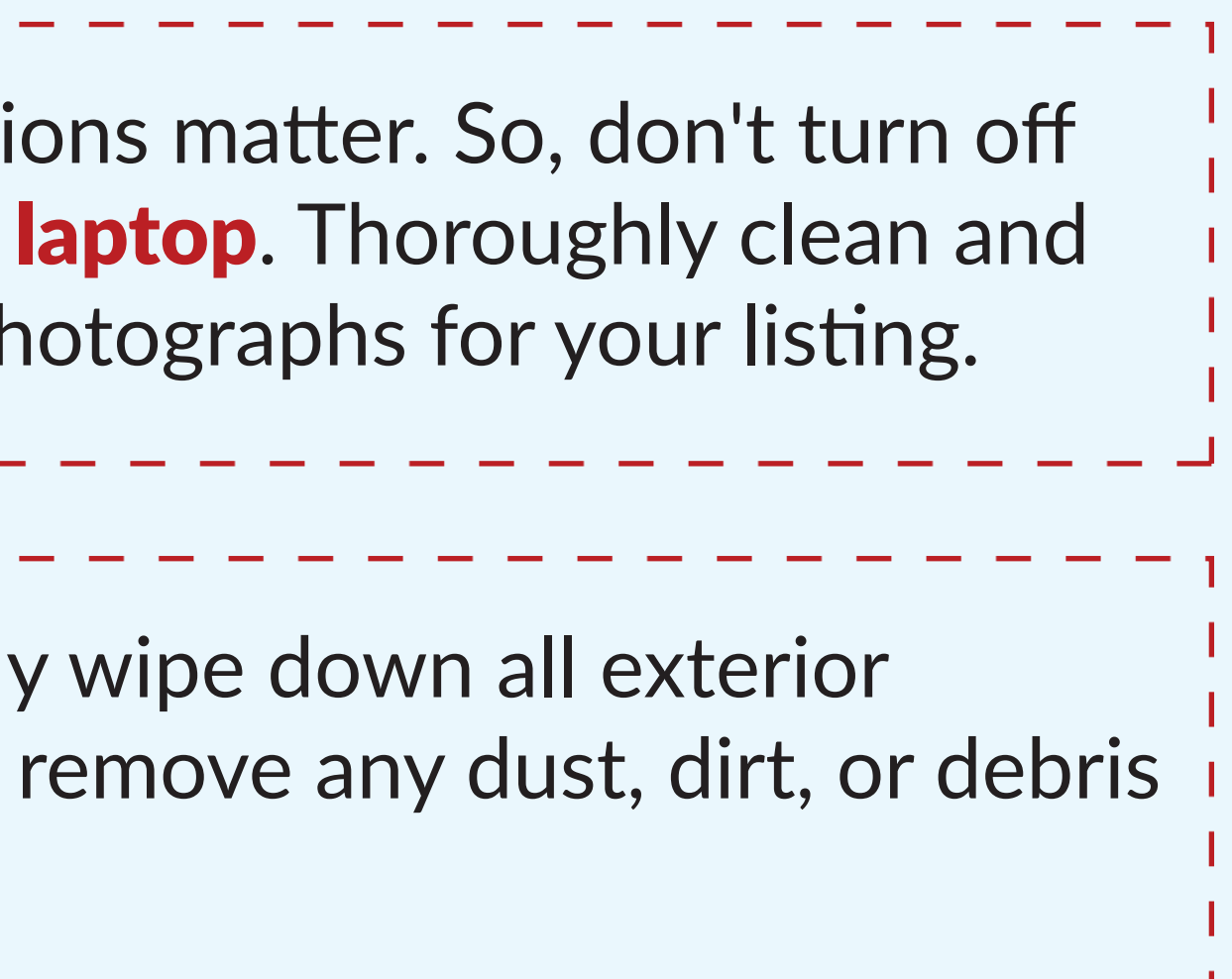
Returns only for DOA

Don't accept returns simply because the buyer changed their mind.



Mistake 05

Not cleaning before listing



There's no getting around it, first impressions matter. So, don't turn off **potential buyers by selling a dirty, dusty laptop**. Thoroughly clean and sanitize your used laptop before taking photographs for your listing.

Use disinfecting or alcohol wipes to gently wipe down all exterior surfaces. Carefully use compressed air to remove any dust, dirt, or debris inside vents and ports.



Mistake 06

Keeping passwords or pins on the hard drive

If your personal security remains on the laptop when you sell it, buyers will need to reset the laptop before they can use it. **You also risk leaking confidential information** to the buyer potentially giving them access to your secured accounts.

CHECK FOR SAVED PASSWORDS IN THE

Web browser settings



WiFi network credentials



Login passcodes

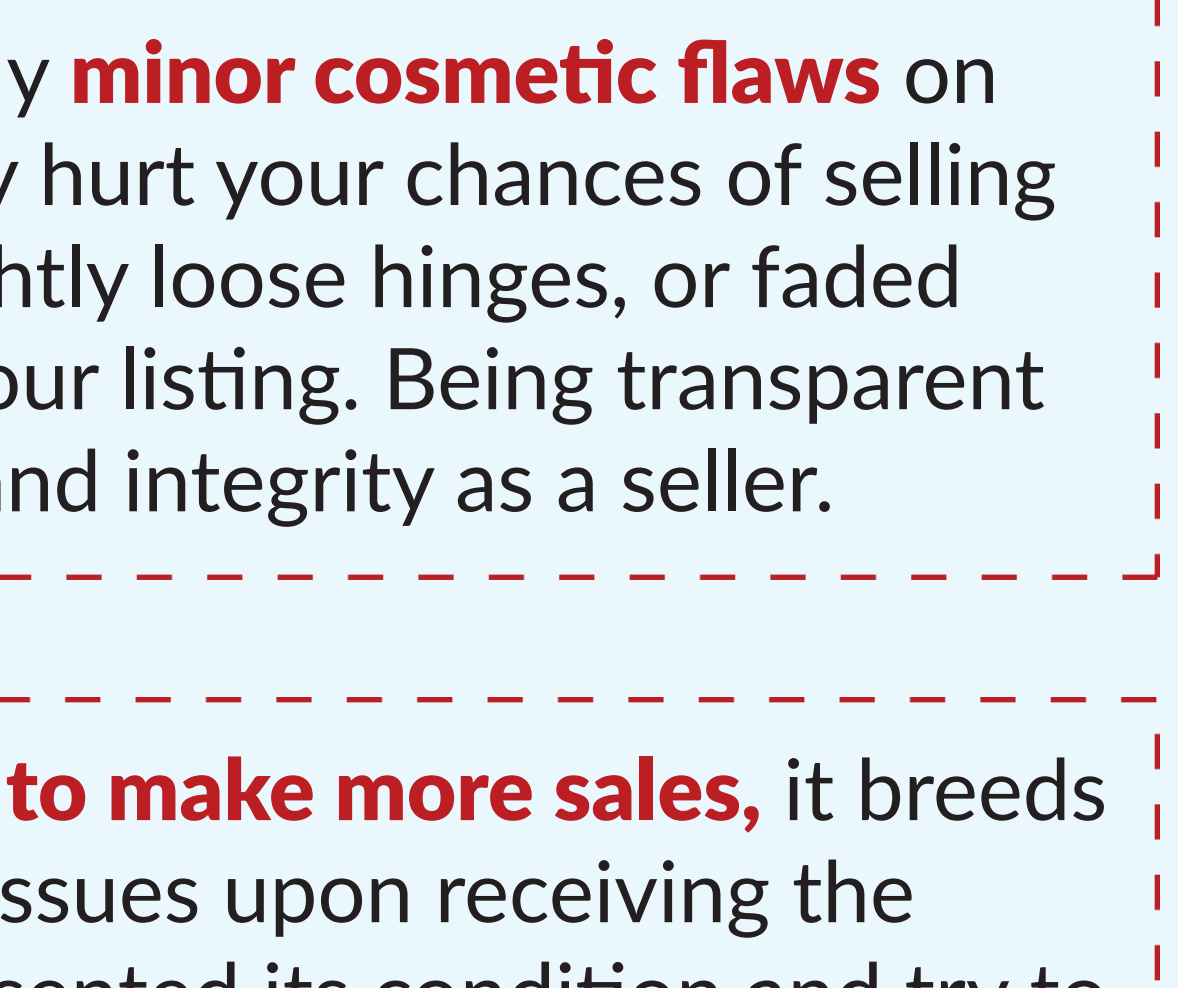


Encryption pins



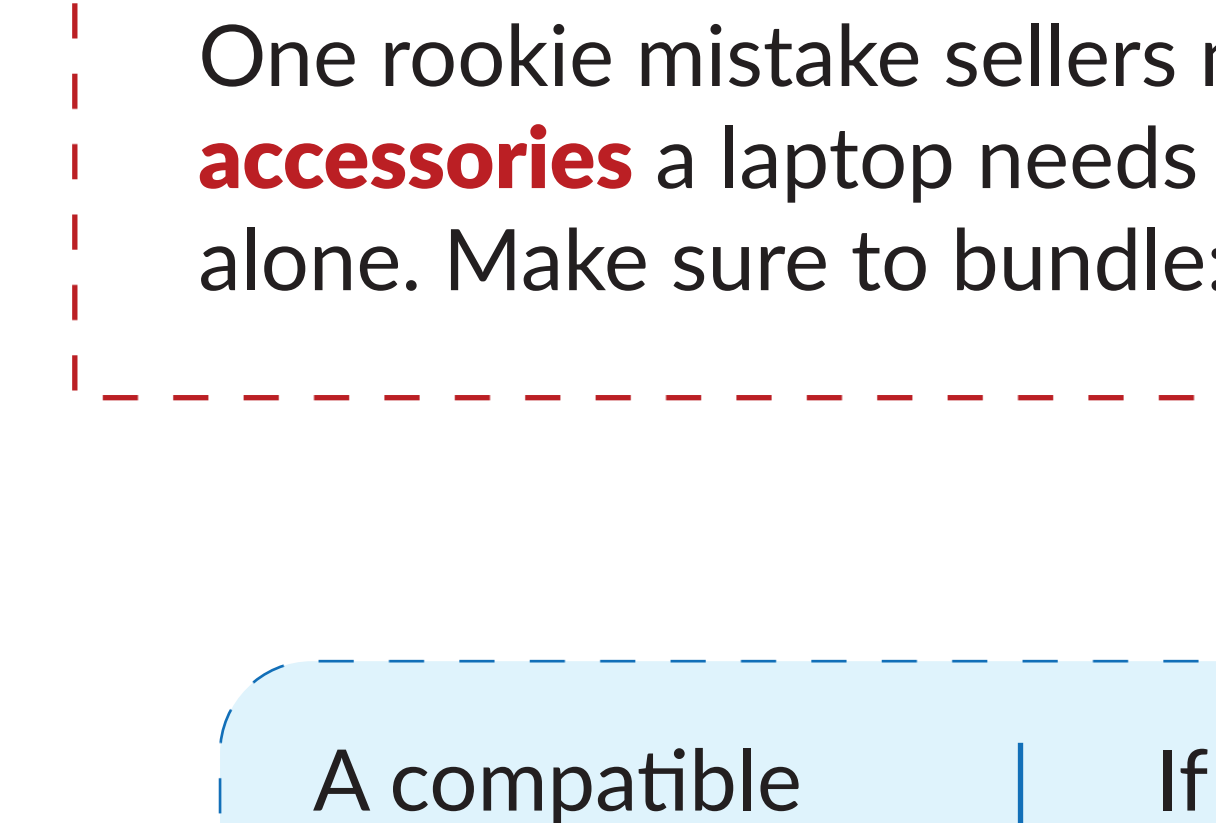
Mistake 07

Ignoring minor flaws



While it may be tempting to ignore relatively **minor cosmetic flaws** on your used laptop, this approach can actually hurt your chances of selling it. Even small issues like light scratches, slightly loose hinges, or faded palm rests should be disclosed upfront in your listing. Being transparent about these minor defects shows honesty and integrity as a seller.

If you try to hide or downplay minor flaws to make more sales, it breeds distrust when buyers inevitably notice the issues upon receiving the laptop. They may be unhappy you misrepresented its condition and try to get a refund.



Mistake 08

Forgetting basic accessories

One rookie mistake sellers make is failing to include some **basic accessories** a laptop needs to function fully. Don't just sell the laptop alone. Make sure to bundle:

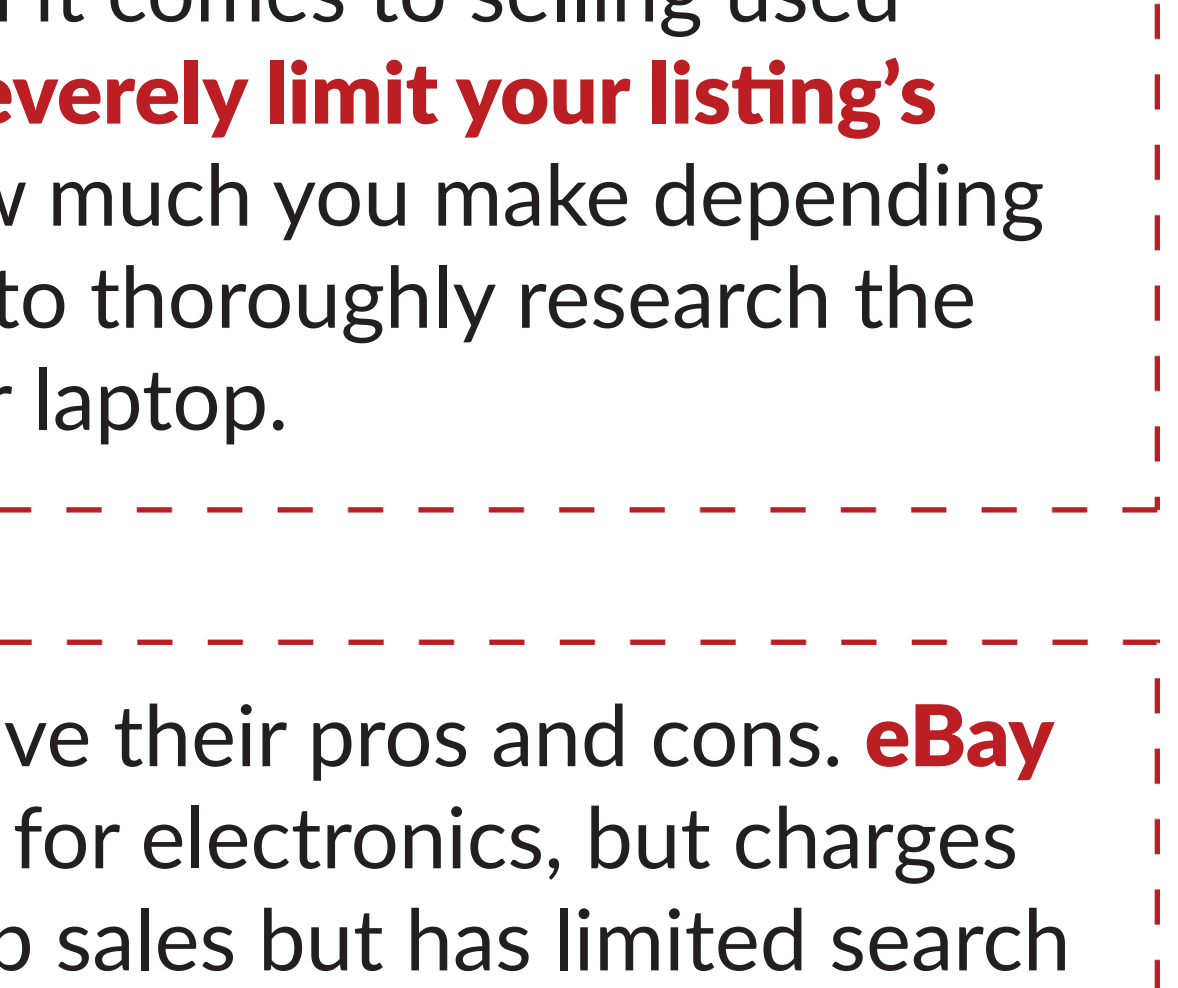
A compatible charging cable

If non-detachable, the wall charger block

Any styluses or pens belonging to the laptop

Mistake 09

Choosing the wrong platform



All online marketplaces are not equal when it comes to selling used laptops. Picking the **wrong platform can severely limit your listing's exposure**, chances of selling, and even how much you make depending on the fees of the platform. So, make sure to thoroughly research the marketplace you choose before listing your laptop.

Popular options like eBay and Craigslist have their pros and cons. **eBay** offers broad reach and is trusted by buyers for electronics, but charges seller fees. Craigslist is good for local pickup sales but has limited search features. Facebook Marketplace and Reddit's /r/hardwareswap leverage existing networks, but have smaller audiences.

Conclusion

Selling a used laptop online can net you some solid cash, but there are plenty of mistakes that can derail your sale if you're not careful. Putting in the effort upfront to avoid common mistakes pays off in the end. Do the prep work and you'll be rewarded with a smooth sale, a satisfied buyer, and some extra green in your pocket. Now you've got the knowledge to dodge the laptop selling fails. Just avoid those blunders we covered and your used laptop is as good as sold.

