Spot Scam Sites *BEFORE* You Order

Seeing beautiful quilts on Facebook is inspiring — but scammers are everywhere. I nearly fell for NaNaQuiltShop.com before doing a little digging.

Here's what to watch for:

Red flags:

- Unknown company; no designer identified
- Same image appearing across multiple sites
- Price seems too high or too low
- Vague or repetitive descriptions; grammar errors
- Unclear business location — shipping *from* the US doesn't mean *made in* the US

Always read reviews from a source other than the website itself. Do a Google Image search on photos — stolen and reused images are common. If the image looks almost too perfect, it may be AI-generated. Signs include odd or missing seams, unnaturally vivid colors, distorted faces, wrong number of fingers, and blurry or nonsensical text.

Even if you receive something, it's often an AI-generated pattern that won't produce the pictured quilt. By the time you complain, the company has vanished and reappeared under a new name. Riley Blake Designs recently flagged a Facebook site fraudulently selling their products at steep discounts — note that Riley Blake does not sell direct to consumers.

Stay safe:

- Buy from reputable or local shops; go directly to the company website, not through social media
- Look for https:// and a padlock icon when buying online
- Search the company name + "scam" or "reviews" on Google before ordering
- Pay by credit card — best fraud protection; avoid Zelle, Venmo, or gift cards
- Warn your friends!

Already been scammed?

1. Report it at ReportFraud.ftc.gov
2. Dispute the charge with your credit card company.
3. Report the Facebook page — it's one of the fastest ways to get scam sites taken down.

~ Maureen Mitchell