

### Pre-paid credit cards.

The definition of a prepaid credit card is:

A payment card (usually MasterCard, Maestro, Visa Electron or Amex), pre-loaded with your own money, which you can then use wherever the payment card is accepted, including on the internet and abroad. It is not a credit card, since no credit is offered by the card issuer: the card-holder spends money which has been "stored" via a prior deposit by the card-holder or someone else, such as a parent or employer. However, it carries a credit-card brand (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover) and can be used in similar ways just as though it were a regular credit card. Prepaid Credit Cards are also referred to as Travel Cards, Prepaid Credit Card, Prepaid Debit Cards, Free Debit Cards, Free Switch Cards, Prepaid Switch Cards, Prepaid Maestro Cards and Prepaid Visa Cards.

There is another prepaid voucher system, called 3V. It enables you to buy a voucher for between £20 and £200 which has a temporary Visa number which can be used online and thrown away when finished with.

(<https://www.3vcash.com/index.html>)



Paypal have also joined the foray and will supply a card which can be topped up from your paypal account or from Paypoint outlets or the Post Office. No monthly fees, no transaction fees and no charge if you top up from your paypal account.

(<https://www.paypal.com/uk/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=xpt/Marketing/general/PPTUHome-outside>)

The list is forever growing and changing, so it is best to go on line to check details and compare.

Pre paid cards have the advantage of convenience, limiting risk, financial regulation and can be used for low risk internet shopping. They also offer users an easy way to track expenses, which is necessary for both monitoring expenditure and the tracking of work-related expenses for taxation and reimbursement purposes. This is particularly useful for voluntary organisations who don't have credit cards, run projects and have to buy things online (to save money for example). They are easy to set up, and give your organisation full reporting against their use. However, they often carry charges. These charges can be for setting up, for topping up, a monthly fee, for withdrawing cash or just when they are used. There are a number of comparison website to enable you to make a choice. This choice will depend on what the objectives of having the card are and such variables as how long and how often it is going to be used.

Useful links:

<http://www.what-prepaid-card.co.uk/features/compare-cards-prepaid.html>

<http://www.prepaidcreditcards.org.uk/>

[http://www.moneysupermarket.com/cards/credit\\_card.asp](http://www.moneysupermarket.com/cards/credit_card.asp)

<http://www.money.co.uk/credit-cards/prepaid-cards.htm>

<http://www.creditsolutions4all.co.uk/prepaid-credit-cards.htm>