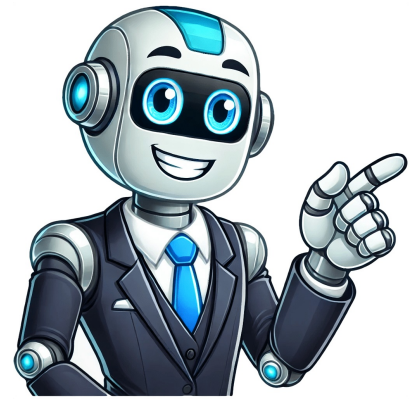


I'm not a bot



Costco is taking new steps to prevent nonmembers from entering its stores, but there are still several ways to shop at Costco without paying an annual fee. In a notice on Costco's website, the wholesale retailer announced its adding membership scanning devices at store entrances. Costco also said it will enforce photo identification requirements, meaning you'll need to present a Costco card with a photo or a valid photo ID like a driver's license. The changes will make it more difficult to evade the member requirement to enter the store, and it'll be harder to freeload off a friend's account. "We don't feel its right that nonmembers receive the same benefits and pricing as our members," Costco said in a statement last year regarding related measures. Most of Costco's profits come from membership fees, and the company says they're what makes it possible for Costco to offer the low prices that draw crowds of customers to its stores. But if you're not a regular Costco shopper, it could be hard to justify buying a membership, which will cost at least \$65 starting Sept. 1. The good news is there's a trick involving gift cards that makes it possible to shop in-store without a Costco membership. Ads by Money. We may be compensated if you click this ad.Ad How to shop at Costco with a gift card Under Costco's policies, anyone can shop at warehouse locations if they present a Shop Card, which is just a gift card. These cards can be purchased in-store, and electronic versions are available online. The catch is that Costco Shop Cards can only be purchased by members, so for this trick, you'll still need to rely on a family member or a friend with a membership to buy a gift card for you. You'll likely have to pay your friend back because the company's policies require the name on your debit or credit card to match the account name. If you're worried about using this strategy, rest assured that the gift card method is allowed: "Non-members as well as members may use Costco Shop Cards to shop at any Costco location in the U.S.," a Costco customer service FAQs page reads. In online forums, shoppers report that they've been able to use small denomination Costco gift cards (ex. \$25) to get in the door. Then they can fill up a cart and pay for the rest of the total with other payment methods like cash or debit. Keep in mind, however, that the rules and enforcement may vary from store to store. Other ways to shop at Costco without membership If the gift card method is too much hassle, there are several other ways to shop at Costco without a membership. Much of Costco's inventory is available online, and the company has free shipping on many items. Unfortunately, online prices are sometimes higher to offset shipping costs and nonmembers pay a 5% surcharge over what members pay for online orders. Nonmembers can order items with same-day delivery using Instacart.com, however, the prices are higher than what you would find shopping in person. Costco has also teamed up with UberEats for delivery available to members and nonmembers though this option is currently limited to select store locations, and nonmembers still pay more. Lastly, there are several things that anyone can get at Costco without a membership, including alcohol (in 14 states), prescriptions and eye exams. But to get the full Costco shopping experience with the lowest prices and to be able to order the famous \$1.50 hot dog deal you'll either need to pay for a membership or try the gift card method. How much is Costco membership? Costco has two main membership options. The standard Gold Star membership is \$60 per year (increasing to \$65 on Sept. 1) and includes a household card that can be used by a second person who lives at the same address as the account holder. The Executive membership (\$120) gets you 2% back on all purchases, which pays for itself when you spend \$3,000. The price of this membership will increase to \$130 on Sept. 1. Ads by Money. We may be compensated if you click this ad.Ad More from Money: Best Credit Cards of August 2024 Here's How Much Time and Money America Spends Doing Taxes Every Year These Credit Unions Offer CDs With APYs up to 9.5% Do You Qualify? / em Many credit cards offer cash-back rewards specifically on grocery-type expenses which could apply when purchasing Campbell's Soup from this wholesale club; leverage these partnerships where possible!In conclusion, even though holding a membership is generally beneficial when shopping at Costco, smart strategies enable savvy shoppers without memberships access its value offerings effectively. Always investigate options such as visiting with members or utilizing online services thoughtfullyyour wallet will thank you!Workaround Options for Costco Membership: How to Shop Without OneCostco has become a go-to destination for bulk shopping due to its wide selection of products and competitive prices. However, gaining access to these benefits typically requires a membership. Thankfully, there are several clever strategies that can allow you to enjoy Costco's offerings without committing to a membership upfront. Here are some effective ways to navigate this issue:Shop with a Member: One of the most straightforward tactics is to accompany a friend or family member who holds an active Costco membership. As their guest, you can freely enter the store and shop alongside them, making use of their member pricing.Use the Costco Website: Even if you don't have a membership, you can browse various items on Costco's website. Interestingly, select non-member purchases may be allowed online; however, be prepared for additional fees on certain products.Gift Cards: Another useful workaround involves purchasing Costco gift cards from third-party retailers or even from members themselves. Once you have a gift card, it allows entry and purchasing within the store without needing an active membership.Items Available at Limited Locations: Certain Costco locations sell products in-store that do not require any membership for purchase. For example, some pharmacies located within Costco premises provide pharmacy services that do not necessitate a card.Tasting Events and Promotions: Occasionally, special events at local Costco might allow non-members to enter the store temporarily for specific promotions or tasting events. Keep an eye on local announcements about such happenings!Curbside Pickup Services: In some cases, regional stores may offer curbside pickup or delivery services available even for non-members. This option allows shoppers access to additively-shop where they can utilize selected services without needing full access inside the warehouse.While navigating your shopping experience at Costco without having a membership might seem like an uphill task initially, employing these strategies enhances accessibility and ensures that savvy shoppers never miss out on fantastic deals! Whether utilizing personal connections with existing members or leveraging available online options effectively ensures you get what you need from this retail giant.Ultimately, effective planning coupled with keen awareness of alternate options will enable anyone wishing to benefit from cost-savings opportunities provided by shops like Costcowithout necessarily signing up for long-term commitments!Can You Use a Costco Shop Card Without a Membership? Exploring the BasicsWhen it comes to shopping at Costco, many prospective buyers often wonder about the possibilities associated with a Costco Shop Card. This article delves into the essential aspects of utilizing a Shop Card without holding an active membership, providing insights and tips for savvy shoppers.For those unfamiliar, a Costco Shop Card is essentially a prepaid gift card offered by the retailer. It allows users to purchase items within store premises even if they do not have an official membership. Here's how it works and what you need to know:Understanding Membership RequirementsA Costco membership typically provides access to exclusive deals and bulk savings across various product categories. Though traditionally required for entry, there are workarounds that enable shoppers to participate in the Costco experience without committing to membership fees.The Role of the Shop CardA Shop Card can be purchased by members and then gifted or shared with non-members. Non-members can use these cards for shopping in-store but cannot add or purchase additional cards.Limitations for Non-Members: **Eligible Purchases**: Those using a Shop Card are limited to items eligible for purchase under regular conditions.2. **Access Restrictions**: While entering with a Shop Card is permitted, non-members might still face access limitations in terms of exclusive member-only offers and online shopping options.Benefits of Using a Shop Card Without Membership Cost Savings: Shoppers can take advantage of lower prices on bulk items without investing in an annual membership fee. Gifting Convenience: Members can purchase and provide these cards as gifts, allowing friends or family members who may not shop regularly at Costco to enjoy its benefits. No Commitment Required: For occasional shoppers who may not justify the cost of full membership, the Shop Card serves as an easy entry point into Costco's warehouse offerings.How to Obtain Your First Costco PurchaseIf you're considering using this mechanism effectively:1. Acquire your initial Shop Card from someone who is already a member.2. Visit your local store prepared with your card; remember that you'll still enjoy member-only pricing without having paid dues!3. Keep in mind any restrictions on purchases through cash-based methods since these vary per location.In conclusion, while traditional rules mandate that one must have a membership to enjoy all that Costco has to offer, utilizing a Costco Shop Card presents an opportunity for those looking to explore newfound savings without long-term commitment. Whether it's testing the waters before diving into full membership or simply seeking gifting options for friends, understanding how these cards function empowers consumers striving for smarter shopping strategies.Shopping at Costco typically requires a membership, which can deter some potential customers. However, there are creative ways to shop at Costco Without a Membership that savvy shoppers can employ to enjoy the value offered by this wholesale retail giant. Firstly, utilizing Costco's services without a membership is possible by taking advantage of their online store. Consumers can shop for select products on the website or app and gain access to competitive prices and exclusive offers. While an additional surcharge may apply for non-members in some instances, it still offers savings compared to traditional retail prices. Another useful strategy is shopping at Costco with a friend or family member who holds a membership and allows you to shop alongside them. This allows access to all the products and bulk savings available at Costco while building social connections.Additionally, it is beneficial for smart shoppers to consider one-time memberships. Some locations offer limited-time options or promotional deals that allow non-members temporary access for specific purchases or events. Lastly, exploring Costco's gift cards can be an effective method as they are redeemable without a membership. Purchasing these cards from members or online platforms grants shoppers the chance to enjoy everything from groceries to electronics.In conclusion, while a full membership has its advantages at Costco, thoughtful strategies exist for those looking to optimize their shopping experience without committing financially. By leveraging these tips and tricks, consumers can make informed decisions that align with their budgetary constraints while still enjoying excellent value. If you are not one to compromise food quality, but still seek out a good deal the odds are strong that you have a Costco membership. And, if you don't have a Costco membership, you should consider it (even if you need to learn how to shop at Costco without a membership from this article first). Just check out some of the comparative Costco prices that I highlighted previously in my best warehouse deals article.I wrote an entire article comparing Costco's Kirkland dog food & cat food to similar products from other brands, and found prices to be one-third to one-half the price of comparable brands, per pound. Costco gasoline (which cannot be bought without a membership unless you have a Costco Shop Card), is usually about 10% lower than most popular gas stations nearby, in my experience. These are just a few examples of the great value that Costco can provide.Costco prices can commonly be anywhere from 15-50% lower than prices found at Trader Joe's, per volume with even larger savings in comparison to other grocery stores. Its not an apples to apples comparison Costco does have limited SKUs and the items you purchase are often in bulk volume. Nevertheless, there are some great deals to be had.The Cost of a Costco MembershipTo get access to that kind of pricing theres a cost. A Costco membership is \$65 (for the standard Gold Star) or \$130 (for the upgraded Executive, which comes with a 2% cashback rebate each year. Costco membership fee prices increased by \$5 and \$10, respectively, for the first time in over 7 years in 2024. Those fees are not insignificant. And they just so happen to be how Costco makes a good share of its profits.In fact, Costco's 2024 annual report indicates that 65.5% of Costco's net income comes from its membership fee revenue from nearly 137 million members worldwide. Costco's markups on food pricing are razor thin, which benefits its members. The more food essentials you buy and eat from Costco, the more you benefit (just stay away from most of the other stuff).What if you don't want to commit to a \$65 membership and just want to see if a membership will be worth your while? It turns out there are a few under-the-radar ways to shop and buy from Costco, without a membership. Also, for those interested, I since have published a list of ways you can shop at Sams Club without a membership too (also, see my Costco versus Sams Club review to compare the popular membership clubs).Is there a Free Costco Membership, Guest Pass, or Trial Membership?There is no free Costco membership, shopping pass, day pass, trial pass, guest pass, trial membership, or other trial period where you can walk up to the door, walk in, and buy whatever you like.However, if you'd simply like to see what the store has to offer, you are welcome to enter and walk around and look. I have rarely been asked for my membership card when I enter a Costco, even though they do have greeters who seemingly are there to encourage you to show it. If you're overly concerned about going in to Costco without a membership card, but know someone who is a member, Costco's guest policy states:Anyone with a card can bring up to two guests to the Warehouse during each visit. Keep in mind that purchasing items is exclusive to Costco members.Thats not entirely true. To buy most goods, you must be a member (with a few big exceptions that I'll cover) or have a member make the purchase on your behalf. Of course, you might not be comfortable asking for that and it could get old quick for the member. There is another wayThe Costco return policy states on membership fee refunds:Risk-Free 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. On Membership-We will cancel any refund your membership fee at any time if you are dissatisfied.So, you could pay your membership fee, give it a trial run, and if you feel you are not getting the value from it that you'd like ask for a refund. You can do so at a Costco membership desk any time.But, what if you just want to get in the door and walk around to see what Costco has to offer, pricing, and all that good stuff but you don't know a member you are comfortable tagging along with? If you are asked for a Costco membership card, just inform the Costco team member at the door that you are there to buy one of the below items or services and they should let you in. Once through the front door, you will have access to the rest of the store.You Can Buy Alcohol at Costco without a Membership (Some States)!Was not able to find any official Costco messaging on this, but it appears from my research that Costco allows alcohol sales to non-members (of legal drinking age). This policy may vary by state, as it has been reported that alcohol sales cannot legally be limited to only members in 14 states.Update: find out more on this policy in my Costco alcohol price list post. If you're at a Costco in one of these states and do not have a membership, you can just state that you are there to buy alcohol to one of the door greeters and they should let you in, per state law. Leniency around alcohol sales at Costco could be an unofficial national policy and not limited to the states listed above. I would not count on it, but its worth a shot. Having bought alcohol at Costco I can vouch for the deals to be had.You Can Buy Prescriptions & Immunizations at Costco Pharmacy without a MembershipPrescription drug sales, like alcohol, are highly regulated. And Costco and other membership stores must offer equal access and pricing for prescriptions to all consumers, regardless of membership status. Simply let the door attendant know that you are a non-member who is picking up a prescription. That should get you in the door.In fact, Costco officially confirms this on their website:You dont need to be a Costco member to purchase Costco Pharmacy prescriptionsonline or at our warehouses. Our Pharmacy counter will accept several different forms of payment, including cash, debit/ATM cards, Costco Shop Cards, and Visa And by the way, prescriptions at the Costco Pharmacy are very cheap. They also include pet prescriptions. Our dogs insulin was the cheapest at Costco, and we looked at over a dozen alternatives. Costco even has the cheapest flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary on whether you can still purchase Costco food court items without a membership. Apparently the Costco food court has always been limited to Costco members, but it has been very loosely monitored, if at all. In recent years, more Costco stores are putting up signs saying that the food court is limited to members, and some stores are requiring all members to enter the store through the entrance versus the exit (where the food court often is located). Costco corporate has been flighty on it, not responding for comment to reporters.In recent years, I've called a few local Costco's and they confirmed to me that you can purchase food from the food court without a membership. Furthermore, I have personally used kiosks for payment at Costco food courts and they have not asked for membership (just a valid form of payment typically a Visa card, but there are other options).Most food courts are accessible without walking in the front door you can usually access them by walking through the back, where you are not greeted. And if you're already in the front door for any of the variety of reasons that I highlight in this article, you can access the food court. The deals at the Costco restaurant are very good, but the options are typically limited to hot dogs/sausages, soda, pizza, salads, and frozen yogurt. Its not a health spa You Can Buy Items at Costco.com without a Membership (with a 5% Surcharge)Non-members can purchase flu shots for those without insurance (all insurance plans must now cover flu shots). And, yes, you can buy immunizations at Costco without a membership. Note that immunization and prescription prices at the Costco Pharmacy may be lower for members than they are for non-members. I called Costco and they quoted me 2 different prices for a flu shot, one lower-priced quote for members and a higher price quote for non-members.Using Costco Optical Services without a MembershipYou can get an eye exam at Costco Optical without a membership. However, to buy glasses and/or contacts, you need a Costco membership, according to Costco's please keep in mind that while you do not need a Costco membership to see an independent doctor of optometry located in or near most Costco warehouses, only members can purchase optical items including glasses and contacts from Costco (just another reason to join!).Buy Food from the Costco Food Court without a Membership (YMMV)Your mileage may vary