

Online Shopping Tip Sheet

This tip sheet will help you learn:

- Guidelines for safe and secure online shopping

Many people enjoy the convenience of shopping online, but it's also important to use trusted sites and look out for suspicious online advertisements and malicious websites. Below are some tips to help you shop more safely online.

Guidelines for safe and secure online shopping.



- **Update your home antivirus** and operating systems to ensure that your personal data remains protected. Consider running regular scans on a weekly or monthly basis.
- **Go to familiar websites** rather than searching for stores through a search engine, and be wary of sites using a different top-level domain (for example: .net instead of .com). Double check the name of the web address.
- **Use websites that are recognized by TRUSTe, VeriSign or Better Business Bureau Online.** Avoid buying items from mass emails and/or pop-up windows. Also look for the "Verified by Visa" or "MasterCard Secure Code" guarantees, which make online payments more secure.
- Check if the **web address starts with "https"** and contains the padlock symbol to indicate that you are sharing your information on a secure site.
- Always **log-out of websites** after placing an order and keep a copy of the confirmation email for your records.
- Make sure you have **different passwords** for different log-ins and websites.
- **Don't give out personal information**, such as birthday dates and national ID's, no online shopping store needs that information.
- Regularly **check your monthly electronic statements**. If you notice something wrong, call your provider quickly to resolve the discrepancy.
- **Avoid using debit card** and banking accounts, stick with credit cards. Most credit card companies have purchase protection, plus it won't drain your bank account.
- **Don't use public computers** to make purchases, and remember to log-out even if you're just checking your email. And if you're using your personal computer in a public area, make sure that no one else can see your screen with your personal information or try to use virtual private networks (VPN) to make purchases.