

Online Shopping Scams

Use these tips to help you to identify and protect yourself from fraud.

Verify the Website



Only shop on secure websites with good reputations. Check for the small, locked padlock icon in the address bar. The address should start with https://.

Check the spelling of the URL. Scammers use similar spellings to fool you into thinking that you are on the true site.

Do an online search on the seller. Use the seller's name and the word "scam" to vet them before sending money.

Consumers lost \$770 million to scams originating on social media in 2021.¹

Manage Risk



Don't shop online using a public Wi-Fi. Public Wi-Fi is not secure and increases your chance of being hacked.

Use a credit card. That way if you get scammed, you can dispute the charges.

Check out as a guest if possible. Your data won't be retained by the company.



Trust Your Instincts

Beware of deals that seem too good to be true.

Be vigilant when websites or social media ads link to an unfamiliar website. Look for typos and missing contact information. Other red flags are poorly written or missing sections such as About Us, Privacy Policy or Terms and Conditions.

If something doesn't feel right, walk away.

Report scams right away to your bank and the Federal Trade Commission.