

Shopping tips and tricks to keep you safe online

Shopping online avoids long lines, save time, and all you have to do when you are done is wait for your things to come to you. We all have different reasons for loving online shopping, but there are tips we should never forget if we want to **stay safe** while doing our online shopping. By following these tips, we will only see the good side to shopping from the comfort of our homes.

Use a computer for your online shopping

Most of us like to do almost everything from our smartphone since it is more comfortable, but it has its drawbacks. The downside to shopping on our smartphone is that they are not as secure as our computers.

Smartphones do not feature the anti-virus software, which our computers have, and that makes it easier for hackers to gain access to your sensitive information. It is also better to do your online shopping on your computer because you are more likely to lose your phone than your computer.

Do not shop on shady looking sites

Some fake sites look almost exactly like the real thing, and it is hard to tell if it is legit or not, but if you see one with a poor design that is an indicator that the site may not be so trustworthy after all.

If the suspicious looking site also has hard to close pop-ups or odd web address, that is another reason to keep looking and do your online shopping somewhere else.

Use your credit card instead of your debit or gift card

What payment method you end up using is, of course, your decision, but it is always a good idea to use your credit card instead of your *debit or gift card*. That is a better choice because your credit card company are required to allow their clients to debate charges that they claim they did not make.

Checking your credit card history daily is also a good idea, so that way, not a day goes by without you knowing what happens in your account.

Avoid sites that ask for too much information

It is completely normal that when shopping online you are asked for information such as your name, shipping address, and your credit card, but you should never be asked for information such as your social security or ID number. If you are shopping on a site that asks you for that information, leave as soon as possible.

Do not forget about

When you are done shopping, do not forget about logging out of your Amazon (or whatever other sites you are using) account, so no one else has access to your information. Before placing you order, make sure that all the information you typed in is correct, so taking a minute or two re-read everything would prevent your neighbor from receiving your new computer.

One more thing to keep in mind is that it is never a good idea to do your online shopping on a public WiFi or public computers. Your information is not as safe, and it is a much better idea to use your device's data than to turn to these unsafe options.

Do not forget about doing your homework on the site you are buying if it is not a well-known site such as Amazon. Make sure that the site you are shopping on uses **a secure connection**, you can identify a secure connection by making sure that the address starts with *https://* in the browser bar.

Reading reviews from other people that have used that site will also give you an insight if the site you are planning on using is trustworthy or not.

Do research on the vendors return or exchange policies

Before you buy a product, make sure to inform yourself on whether the vendor accepts returns or exchanges. You should not simply take for granted that it is something that they are going to do. That way you are sure there will not be any surprises when you try to return your product.

Conclusion

Shopping online has its positive side, but if we are not careful, it can also be a scary place. By following the above tips, you will stay safe and only have to enjoy whatever it is you are buying. How do you stay safe online? Share your tips in the comments