

Cybersecurity Reminders

KEEP DATA SAFE WHILE
ONLINE SHOPPING



Thankfully, the era of online shopping makes getting the perfect gift a whole lot easier. However, before you embark on an online shopping spree, make sure you're not leaving yourself at risk.

You may not have to worry about pickpockets in cyberspace, but there are still plenty of reasons to safeguard your personal and financial information. As our online spending increases, so does our need for security. Here are 11 ways you can protect yourself while shopping online:

- 1. Trust your gut, shop on reputable sites.** Check for safety indicators: HTTPS site, website name (is it spelled correctly?), certificate usage, etc.
- 2. Be extra careful on mobile devices.** Secure your phone with a password to protect it if it should ever be stolen.
- 3. Limit or do not shop on public Wi-Fi.**
- 4. Review your credit card statements regularly.**
- 5. Use a rechargeable credit card for online purchases.** Load it only with the amount needed for purchases.
- 6. Change your passwords regularly.** Follow good password creation rules for all new passwords. The longer and more complex, the better!
- 7. Review the URL: HTTP vs HTTPS.** If the site is not secure, shop elsewhere.
- 8. Check actual URL for one-offs and misspellings (Amazon vs. Annazon).**
- 9. Check email addresses prior to clicking links.** Look at the email address first before clicking on links and see if it is from a reputable sender. When in doubt or if something looks off, delete it.
- 10. Check the company's privacy policy.** This will tell you what the company does with the information about you they collect. You want to make sure your information is not being sold to third parties and that your data is stored encrypted and is secure.
- 11. Update your software!** Make sure your device has the latest security updates installed. Ensure that your web browser is up to date as well, with all the latest security patches.