

Cybersecurity Corner

A lot of people do most of their holiday shopping online now. Unfortunately, there are scams online everywhere, especially on social media. Scammers sometimes impersonate real companies and run ads for brand-name products at abnormally low prices. But if you click on the ad, it could send you to a scammy website designed to take your money in exchange for a counterfeit item, something that looks completely different from the picture in the ad, or nothing at all.

When you're shopping online, here are some ways to protect yourself during the holidays and year-round:

- **Research** - Before you buy, search online for the seller's name and the website URL the ad sends you to, plus words like "review," "complaint," or "scam" to see what others have to say.
- **Pay by credit card** - You can dispute fraudulent charges with your credit card company. And if the seller says you can only pay with a gift card, wire transfer, payment app, or cryptocurrency, it's probably a scam.
- **Keep records** - If something goes wrong, having your receipt and order confirmation number can help you get your money back from the seller.



Click below for more information about online shopping scams.

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