Identity Theft

SHOPPING SAFE ONLINE

Before you create an online account, shop or enter any personal information on a website, check for signs that the organization and the site is secure and trustworthy.

Look for Security Indicators

The "https" at the beginning of the web address indicates the page uses a secure form of encryption to protect the information you enter. Most browsers use other security indicators—a symbol, such as a padlock and/or a color change. Learn how your browser reports website security levels but remember, indicators are not foolproof.

Learn About Who You Are Doing Business With

Research businesses on the Better Business Bureau's website, **bbb.org** or through an online search. Read the reviews. Confirm the business or seller's physical address and phone number. Legitimate entities provide this so you can contact them with problems.

Read the Privacy Policy

Understand what personal information the site collects, how it's used and if it's shared. Learn what security measures are used to protect your information.

Do Your Research

Read through return, refund or shipping policies, terms of use and other information provided about the establishment, its site and how it conducts online businesses.

Guard Your Cards

Shop online with a credit card rather than a debit card, which provides direct access to the money in your bank account.