



Shopping online this Christmas? Here's ho-ho-how to stay safer....

With National Trading Standards warning that Brits are putting themselves at risk of online fraud as they shop from the comfort of their sofas for Christmas, here are some simple tips to help you stay cyber-safer.

1. **Do it at home.** Don't shop from the sofa at your local coffee shop. When using any public wifi network, whatever you're doing on your mobile device can be picked up by a hacker. If you intend to input any personal or credit card details, wait until you get home.
2. **Look for https in the URL.** Not just http. The added "s" means the way your information is being sent is encrypted and more secure. Check for the little closed padlock in the browser alongside the URL address.
3. **Be ultra-cautious if you're on a mobile device.** Your phone may not have the kind of anti-virus software your laptop might have, leaving it vulnerable to malware which helps hackers steal your information.
4. **If it looks too good to be true, it probably is.** If you find an online seller who is offering something at a much lower price than others, either the item may not be genuine or the website might be a trap to get your credit card details. Stay alert.
5. **Passwords protect.** Be smart. Use caps, lower case, numbers and symbols. Yes, it's a pain, but it's like locking your front door against burglars. And don't use the same one for everything.
6. **Don't be fooled by links in emails.** You get an email announcing a great deal and see a link to buy... Don't do it even if it looks legitimate. Links can contain malware or take you somewhere insecure. If you're interested, use your browser to go to the company's website and check for the https and padlock (see 2. above).
7. **Keep your operating system and anti-virus software updated.** Hackers come up with new stuff all the time – these security updates will help thwart them.
8. **And finally...check the privacy policy.** In your rush to buy, don't forget to check how the site will use your personal data and that it's stored securely.

EnterpriseRed is a provider of cyber security solutions, consultancy and training.

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Our team at EnterpriseRed wishes all our customers and everyone else a happy, healthy and cyber-secure Christmas and New Year.

