

MAKE SURE THE

When you're buying online, look for a padlock icon

near the address bar – or check if the URL includes

mean you can rest easy: you're sending your card

"https" or "shttp". The extra 's' or the padlock

details and personal info via a secure channel.

ACKNOWLEDGE

When you register with them, online retailers

payment details, etc), usually marked by an

or possibly to sell your data. So don't feel

pressured into giving those details out.

WATCH OUT 8. FOR PHISHING

clearly need some essential info (name, address,

asterisk. Anything else is for marketing purposes

Retailers regularly send out emails to publicise

their latest deals. Hackers often try to use this

traffic as camouflage; look out for emails with

pixelated images – they're all signs of an

poor grammar, suspicious reply addresses and

THE ASTERISK

2. MAKE SURE THE SITE IS SECURE

CHECK IT'S A • LEGITIMATE SITE



It's safest to stick with well-known, reputable retailers. If a site doesn't look professional, or has weird pop-up ads, it's best to steer clear - no matter how tempting their prices. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is!

CREATE SECURE PASS WORDS



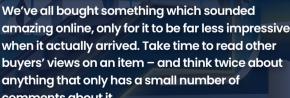
When shopping around online, you'll often need to set up an account when buying from a site for the first time. Choose a different password for each: the longer, the better. It's best practice to mix upper- and lower-case letters, symbols and numbers.

REINFORCE YOUR **SECURITY**

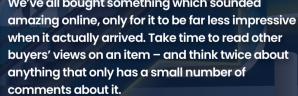


Before you shop, check that your browser and any anti-virus software are up to date. Updates often contain improvements to your device's security. You could also consider using intermediary services like PayPal, Apple Pay or Google Pay, which offer advanced protection.

attempt to 'phish' your personal details.



READ THE REVIEWS



National Online #WakeUpWednesday

3. READ THE SMALL PRINT



Take note of details like a seller's returns policy. It's easy to shop impulsively when you're online and then be stuck with unwanted items because of a very small window for returning goods. Also check delivery estimates if you're buying for a specific date (like a birthday).

AVOID PUBLIC 6. WI-FI



When you are on the high street, don't use public WiFi to buy things online. It might seem super-efficient to shop on your phone while you're queuing or taking a break – but the WiFi in shopping centres or coffee shops isn't secure. Using 3G or 4G will be slower, but it's safer.

PLAN YOUR SHOPPING



Before going online, make a list of what you're in the market for – and stick to it. Because you're not physically putting items in a bag that you then have to carry, it's easy to lose track of how much you've bought and end up with a massive over-spend by the time you log off.







SOURCES: https://www.statista.com/topics/871/online-shopping/



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