



CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS TIPS – December 2017

6 tips to help you stay safe while online shopping

- **Look for the padlock** – Always use a secure Internet connection when making a purchase. Look for the little padlock in the address bar or a URL that starts with “https” instead of “http,” as the “s” stands for “secure.” Some browsers will tell you it's safe to give out your credit card by showing you a green address bar, while unprotected ones will be highlighted in red.
- **Use a secure payment method** – Only shop on sites that take secure payment methods, such as credit cards and PayPal, as they likely give you buyer protection just in case there's a dispute.
- **Password pointers** – A strong password is at least seven characters long, has a combination of letters, numbers and symbols, including some uppercase characters. Change passwords routinely. Or use password management apps if you're worried you won't remember the password.
- **Do your homework** – When on marketplaces like eBay, check the seller's reputation and read comments before buying a product to see what the experience was like for past customers.
- **Watch out for fake shopping apps** – Be sure you're downloading the legitimate app by getting it from the company's official website or, if downloading from an app store directly, check to see it's been around for a few years and has high ratings from many users.
- **Avoid shopping on hotspots** – Try not to do any online shopping when you're using a public computer (such as in an airport lounge) or when you're using a public Wi-Fi network (say, at your favorite coffee shop or in a hotel lobby). You never know if your information is being tracked and logged — so it's best to wait until you get home.

Source: [USA Today](#)