

6 TIPS

to Help Enjoy a CYBER-SAFE Shopping Season



It's that time of the year again! Family, friends, good cheer, and of course gifts! Online shopping is fun, and it can be rewarding to find that perfect gift - but make sure you're shopping safely this season! Here are six tips to help you enjoy a cyber-safe online shopping season:

1 Shop with Trusted Sites

Even if you are looking for those hard-to-find, one-of-a-kind gifts, check with large online shopping sites like Amazon or eBay. They have a vast array of products from large to smaller merchants and have proven security protocols so you can purchase with confidence. Generally speaking, website security, returns, refunds, and customer service through Amazon and eBay practically guarantee a stress-free shopping experience.



2 Look for the Padlock

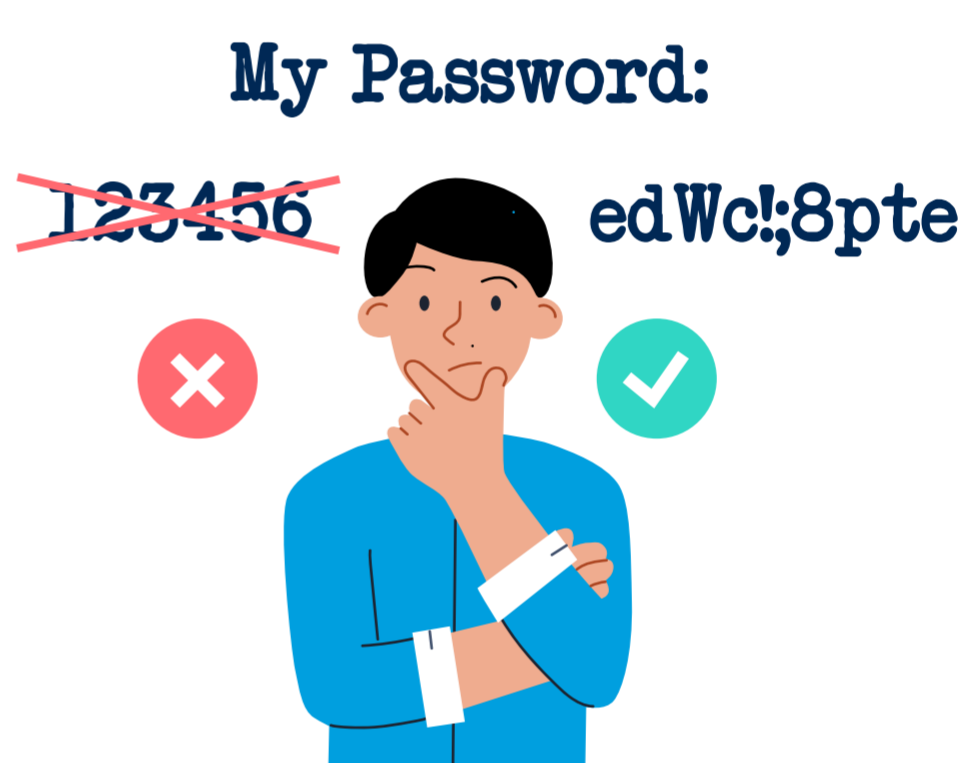
When visiting any e-commerce site, look for the padlock in the browser window.

The padlock in the browser window means the site is using HTTPS protocol to create a secure session between the consumer and the website. When HTTPS is deployed, the connection is encrypted and secure for the transmission of credit card details and other sensitive information.

3 Use Unique Passwords

As you log in, sign up or update your passwords, be sure to use different passwords for every online site or service.

Most people re-use passwords for multiple sites, yet it only takes a single cybersecurity breach at one online vendor or service to capture your email and password combination. Cybercriminals can then wreak havoc on personal and financial lives. The solution to password re-use is smart technology, which brings us to our next tip.



4 Use a Password Manager

Password Managers:



Do you find yourself with too many sites to remember all those separate passwords? We have two words for you: password managers. This technology enables the use of unique passwords for every site. With a password manager, you can create unique, strong passwords for every site but only remember ONE long master password.

5 Upgrade Your Home Network

Odds are your home network could use an upgrade. Home networks are working harder than ever, from entertainment to communications to remote work. Unfortunately, most home-based routers and Wi-Fi gateways are insecure and inadequate, and often home network devices are deployed with default passwords and disabled security features. Gift your home with new generation network devices that address current cybersecurity deficiencies.

- ✓ Cloud auto-updated network devices
- ✓ Palo Alto Networks Okyo Garde solution
- ✓ Linksys devices fortified with Fortinet security

6 Consider a Credit Monitoring Service

Pro Tip:

AAA members can activate a free credit monitoring service from Experian included with their AAA subscription: <https://www.aaa.com/experianidtheft/>

Why consider adding a credit monitoring service? These services address a wide range of challenges, such as password, credential, or identity theft. Services like [Credit Karma](#) or [LifeLock](#) monitor the Dark Web to alert their customers to stolen emails or passwords while giving real-time visibility to new account creations that can signal identity theft attempts.



Enjoy a cyber-safe holiday season!