

Online Shopping Safety Guide

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Online shopping is part of everyday life for many families, including our kids and teens. It is convenient and helpful, but it can also come with risks like fake stores, scams, or identity theft. This friendly guide is here to help you talk with your kids and teach them simple, safe habits so they can shop online with confidence.

1. Talk With Your Kids Before They Click Buy

- Set family rules for spending and payment methods so everyone is on the same page.
- Remind kids that card numbers, addresses, and passwords should never be shared with friends.
- Encourage them to check with you first if something feels urgent or too good to be true.

2. Stick With Trusted, Real Websites

- Look for https:// and a small padlock icon in the browser bar.
- Use well known stores or verified sellers on major marketplaces.
- Read reviews, including the negative ones, before buying.
- If a price looks unbelievably cheap, it probably is.

3. Protect Your Payment Information

- Use safer options like virtual cards, prepaid cards, or gift cards when possible.
- Turn on purchase alerts so you know when a charge happens.
- Avoid saving card details in browsers or shared devices.
- Always log out after checkout.

4. Keep Accounts and Devices Secure

- Create strong, unique passwords for each shopping account.
- Turn on two factor authentication wherever it is offered.
- Avoid shopping on public Wi Fi networks.
- Keep phones, tablets, and computers updated so security fixes are installed.

5. Help Kids Spot Shopping Scams

- Fake giveaways asking for personal details or payment info.
- Unknown sellers contacting them through social media messages.
- Websites asking for wire transfers or gift card payments only.
- Spelling mistakes, missing contact details, or strange website names.

6. Keep Track of Purchases Together

- Save receipts and order confirmations.
- Set up transaction alerts on cards.
- Review statements regularly as a learning moment.
- Report anything suspicious right away.

7. Be a Role Model for Safe Shopping

- Talk openly about how you decide where to shop online.
- Explain why you use strong passwords and 2FA.
- Share examples of times something looked suspicious and what you did.

Online shopping can be safe and positive when families stay informed and talk openly. You do not need to scare kids away from technology. Instead, help them build good habits so they can enjoy the convenience of online shopping while protecting your family information.

Share this guide with other parents and caregivers who want their children to shop safely online.