

Avoid Holiday Shopping Scams

**Recognize,
Refuse,
Report!**

Call us
Monday–Friday,
9 a.m.–4 p.m.

800-222-4444
Option 2



The holiday season creates new ways for scammers to victimize consumers. Especially with many consumers turning to online shopping it is even more important to remain vigilant. Here are a few steps you can take to ensure this holiday shopping season is fraud-free:

- Avoid **shopping online** when you are connected to free public Wi-Fi. Networks that are not secure can expose your personal and financial information to criminals.
- Do your **research** before purchasing an item from an unknown online retailer. Be extra careful about ads originating on social media sites that offer products cheaper than market value.
- When shopping on Craigslist, Facebook Marketplace, eBay or other marketplace sites, **never send money** sight unseen to pay for goods or services. If you are asked to pay via peer-to-peer payment app, pre-paid gift card or Bitcoin, consider it a scam.
- When purchasing a **gift card**, be sure to inspect it thoroughly for tampering. Ensure the PIN number on the back of the card is not visible. Consider purchasing it online directly from the retailer for an extra layer of security. Be sure to give the receipt for the gift card to the recipient.
- Outsmart porch pirates! If you are **shipping a package**, it is a good idea to require a signature upon delivery and/or provide specific instructions for the delivery company to ensure the package is not stolen.

If you have a question about a potential holiday fraud or scam and want to talk it through with a trained AARP ElderWatch volunteer, please call 800-222-4444. Have a happy and safe holiday season!

800-222-4444

Denver Metro Area
303-222-4444

www.aarpelderwatch.org