



USE CAUTION WHEN SHOPPING ONLINE

**When it comes to your personal information,
don't trade safety for convenience.**

Shopping online is quick and convenient. While this modern convenience can save time and money, you must take care to avoid hidden hazards.

Not all online retail sites are created equal. Before you enter personal information, look for indicators that the site is secure.

At check-out, the name of the URL (web address) should be preceded by the letters *https*. A closed padlock or key icon should appear on the browser's status bar. These signs let you know your information will be encrypted.

You may be tempted to ignore a site's privacy policy, but it's worth your time to take a few minutes to read it. The privacy policy should tell you what personal information is being gathered and how it will be used. If you don't feel comfortable with the terms, shop elsewhere.

Follow these guidelines to ensure a safe online shopping experience:

- ❖ Don't complete a transaction on an open or public Wi-Fi network
- ❖ Shop with companies you know and trust
- ❖ Review return policies, shipping rates and auction fees
- ❖ Always log out after your shopping session
- ❖ Don't allow sites to store your credit card information

Remember:

- ❖ Print and save receipts and records of your online transactions
- ❖ Pop-up solicitations aren't necessarily connected to web pages you are visiting – treat them as unsolicited messages
- ❖ Never give personal information to sites linked from unsolicited emails or unsolicited pop-ups