



Community Services Section Crime Prevention Tips

Online Shopping Prevention Tips

Online shopping websites offer great deals, variety and convenience. However, consumers need to be careful and make informed decisions about their purchase. Online shopping tips listed below:

- Stick to websites that are known or recommended.
- Compare prices and deals, including free shipping, extended service contracts, or other offers.
- Search for online coupons, known as promo codes, which may offer discounts or free shipping.
- Get a complete description of the item and parts included, and the price. Also, find out the delivery time, warranty information, return policy, and complaint procedure.
- Read reviews from other consumers and independent experts.
- Pay with a credit card. Federal law protects you if you need to dispute charges.
- Use a secure browser. Look for a URL that starts with “https” rather than “http”. Also look for a closed padlock icon, usually in the lower right-hand corner of the screen.
- Avoid making online purchases on public Wi-Fi hotspots; these may not be secure, and your payment information could be stolen over the network.
- Print or save your purchase order with details of the product and your confirmation number.

Any questions or concerns about this document should be directed to the Baltimore County Police Department’s Precinct Outreach Team or Community Services Section, Officer Bryan Dietsch @ 410-887-5901