



NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Holiday Online Shopping Tips

Columbia, SC... When shopping online, the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) offers the following tips to maximize savings and minimize stress:

- ***Track the deals.*** Preview retailer circulars for bargains. Also, get on retailers' email lists, check their websites for additional bargains, and look for deals and coupons listed on social media.
- ***Shop from secure sites.*** A secure site will display the HTTPS in the web address bar and may also display a padlock icon in the browser window.
- ***Make sure security software is up to date.*** Security software is important for catching viruses and malware that may be installed on a computer. These types of malware can compromise personal information without the consumer's knowledge.
- ***Use a different password on each site.*** Create unique, strong passwords with a combination of upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters.
- ***Be mindful when shopping from smartphones and tablets.*** Be sure to make purchases over a secure and password protected Wi-Fi network.
- ***Use the right card.*** Credit and charge cards offer more consumer fraud protections. When deciding which card to use online, compare their shopping benefits like cash back, airline miles, or discounts on trips.
- ***Keep track of your order.*** Read the seller's description of the product, including the fine print! Save any information the seller gives you such as product description, delivery date, cancellation policy, privacy policy, warranties, and order confirmation numbers.

For more helpful shopping tips, visit our website at www.consumer.sc.gov.

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SCDCA aims to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, complaint mediation, enforcement and education. To file a complaint or get information on consumer issues, visit www.consumer.sc.gov or call toll-free, 1.800.922.1594.

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