

7 SAFETY TIPS FOR HOLLY JOLLY HOLIDAY SHOPPING



PROTECT YOUR ACCOUNTS.

A unique, strong password is a great first step to keep you safe from the threats that lurk online. Make it long (at least 12 characters), include special characters (\$%&), switch up the capitalization, and make it random.



USE A VPN.

Think twice before clicking "buy" on public WiFi networks. A virtual private network, or VPN, helps protect you by creating a secure, private network when using public WiFi.



DO YOUR RESEARCH.

Not every website is safe to visit but how can you tell if a site is legit? There are some signs that scream "fake site". These include overly flashy images, popups, misspellings/poor grammar, and multiple redirects.



CREDIT > DEBIT.

Fraudulent charges on your credit card are easier to dispute than on your debit card. For additional security, sign up for text alerts so you're notified whenever a charge is processed.



CLICK SAFELY.

There's a significant spike in phishing attempts during the holiday season. Remember to always check links before you click them and verify sender email addresses.



TRACK YOUR CHARGES.

Any suspicious activity is best caught early on. After making your purchases, be sure to review your credit card statement or bank account to verify withdrawals.



REMEMBER PHONE SAFETY.

Nearly 50% of all holiday shopping will be done on smartphones this year. A lot of the tips mentioned above, like a strong password (plus facial or fingerprint recognition) and VPN can be put to use on your phone.

