



The holiday season is a good time to review personal safety and identity security practices. Keeping these tips in mind and putting them into practice will help keep you both safe and secure during the holiday season and beyond.

Electronic Shopping

- Make sure a retailer's website is secure before shopping. Look for the  lock icon in the URL and for the URL to begin with "https" (Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure), meaning encrypted HTTP data is transferred over a secure connection
- Keep anti-virus software and apps up-to-date. Set unique passwords for each account using a 10+ character mix of alphas, special characters, symbols or sentences
- Establish a separate credit card with a lower credit limit and an email specifically for that account to use for all your purchases
- Don't use public Wi-Fi or a VPN to make purchases. These are easy access routes for your personal and financial data to be skimmed
- Don't click on pop-up ads or make purchases through them. These can be portals for viruses to breach your computer
- Move delivered packages inside as soon as possible, or make arrangements with a trusted neighbor to do that for you.

Holiday Scams

- Be cautious of holiday email and texting scams. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is
- Don't use links provided in a flash holiday deal email or text. Go directly to the vendor's secure website to verify their sale
- Don't open emails or texts (like a holiday e-card) from an unnamed or unknown recipient, or participate in holiday surveys promising gift cards or cash. These are most likely phishing scams to steal your personal and financial information.

In-person Shopping

- Keep your wallet or purse to the front of you
- When using credit cards, save your receipts and monitor your credit card activity
- Use RFID protected wallets, purses, or credit card sleeves that offer another level of protection for information linked to your credit card. **Stop by the Police Dept. M-F, 8a-7p for an RFID credit card sleeve, multiple credit card style pocket, and/or passport sleeve available on a first-come, first-served basis.**

Driving

- Patience is the key when it comes to parking lots. When pulling into or backing out of a parking space - look for cars and people. Park in a well-lit area and be aware of your surroundings
- Have your car key or fob in-hand before you get to your car, so there's no fumbling for it while managing kids or packages
- Keep packages in your car out of plain sight, and *lock it when you leave it!*