



BBB Tip: Shop Safe, Shop Smart this holiday season

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

With more holiday gift shopping involving online searches and purchases, there is an [increased risk of online purchase scams](#). Online purchase scams ranked among the top three riskiest scams for the last three years, according to the 2019 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report published in March 2020, shortly after COVID-19 shut down much of the economy. BBB recommends the following tips to “Shop Safe, Shop Smart” this holiday season.

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Holiday resources for military families

BY RANDI CAIRNS, MILITARY FAMILY ADVISORY NETWORK

This list includes programs to help military families stretch their budgets further over the holidays. There are programs to provide free meals, transportation home, toys for children, free Christmas trees, and more.

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Help your loved ones avoid scams this holiday season

BY LISA SCHIFFERLE, CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (CFPB)

The pandemic is changing the way we celebrate the holidays. But even if we’re not all gathering around the table, it’s still a good time to communicate with family and friends. When you do, consider sharing tips for avoiding cyber scams and protecting finances. Scammers are hard at work trying to take advantage of the uncertainty brought about by the pandemic, as well as the generosity and distraction of the holiday season.

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Online puppy scams rising sharply in 2020, BBB warns

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically increased demand for pets as people seek adding a pet to the family to ease the loneliness and tension of prolonged time at home. Better Business Bureau advises extreme caution when shopping for a pet online, especially in light of scammers' evolving tactics.

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BBB Tip: Avoiding job scams this holiday season

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Retailers and shippers traditionally hire seasonal workers to fulfill the demands of holiday shoppers whether they are online or in person. Better Business Bureau has some suggestions to make the seasonal job hunt successful. Being proactive in finding the right opportunity is key, but so is watching out for a job that just seems too good to be true.

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Veterans and imposter scams

BY CAROL KANDO-PINEDA, FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC)

During the past four years, the FTC logged more than 378,000 reports from veterans — and nearly 161,000 were fraud-related. More than 24,000 of those reported a loss (with total losses of \$205 million). Veterans had a median loss of \$755, compared to active duty service members who reported a median loss of \$500 over the same period.

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Pandemic report outlines challenges faced by service members, families, and veterans

BY KEVIN LILLEY, MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)

MOAA joined dozens of organizations to build a recent report on the specific challenges faced by the uniformed services and veteran communities during the COVID-19 pandemic — a document that pulled from dozens of town hall meetings, working groups, surveys, and analysis to offer more than 40 “actions for consideration” to address these concerns.

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Giving wisely in the time of COVID

BY ROSARIO MENDEZ, FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC)

Thanks to COVID-19, many charitable organizations are faced with greater demand for their services, but less in donations as people have less to give. Now, more than ever, it's important to make sure that your donation will be used wisely and well.

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