



Helpful Holiday Tips and Resources

FTC's Tips for Happy Holiday Shopping

BY GRETCHEN ABRAHAM, FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Keep your holiday shopping merry and bright with an early gift from the Federal Trade Commission: tips to help you watch your wallet, shop wisely, and protect your personal information.

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Holiday Resources for Military Families

BY HEATHER ALIANO, MILITARY FAMILY ADVISORY NETWORK

Many military families struggle with food insecurity and budget shortfalls. You may have trouble putting food on the table year-round, and this stress is even more apparent over the holidays. This list includes programs to help military families stretch their budgets farther over the holidays. There are programs to provide free meals, transportation home, toys for children, free Christmas trees, and more.

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BBB Tips for Avoiding Job Scams This Holiday Season

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Are you looking to make extra money over the holidays? Retailers and shippers hire seasonal workers to fulfill the demands of holiday shoppers. These jobs are a great way to make extra money, sometimes with the possibility of turning into a long-term employment opportunity. But scammers are out there, too, so the Better Business Bureau has some tips to make your seasonal job hunt successful.

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Top Tips for Avoiding Scams At The Holidays

Now that the holiday shopping season is in full swing, scammers are shopping too, looking for people to separate from their money. Here are some tips to help you outsmart those bah-humbug scammers and donate safely.

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Scam Alert: Social Media Gift Exchange is an Illegal Pyramid Scheme

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

A "Secret Santa" around the office or with friends and family can be fun. A gift exchange among online friends you haven't met is a little different and carries a heftier consequence. These gift exchanges, while they look like innocent fun, are really pyramid schemes – and are considered illegal.

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BBB Tips: 8 Tips for Dealing With Holiday Pop-Up Shops

BY BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

The Better Business Bureau receives hundreds of complaints a year about temporary retail locations and "pop-up" shops, reporting everything from poor quality merchandise to difficulty obtaining refunds after temporary stores have closed their doors. Pop-up shops can be fun, but keep the following BBB tips in mind if you choose to buy from one of them.

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Veterans, Servicemembers and Fraud: By The Numbers

BY CAROL KANDO-PINEDA, FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

When people report scams to the FTC, we learn a lot about how they experience fraud. These fraud reports are important for law enforcement and education efforts. And, as more and more people report fraud, the data can tell a more detailed story about specific groups of people. One example is recent data showing some differences between military consumers – both veterans and active duty – and civilians.

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New Infographic Offers Tips to Protect Members of The Military From Potential Scams

BY AMERICAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION

The American Bankers Association Foundation, the Association of Military Banks of America (AMBA) and Better Business Bureau Institute for Marketplace Trust (BBB Institute) joined forces to educate veterans, active duty service members and their families on financial scams targeting the military. A [new infographic](#) highlights findings from the [Military Consumers & Marketplace Trust report](#), which notes that military consumers lost 68 percent more money to debt relief and credit repair scams last year compared to all consumers and 14 percent more on home improvement project scams.

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These Behaviors Make You a Scam Target

BY FINRA

Do you spend a lot of time on social media sites or looking for great online deals? If so, then you wear a bullseye when it comes to scammers hunting for money, according to groundbreaking fraud research from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust and the Stanford Center on Longevity.

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Scams Telling You to Pay in Bitcoin on the Rise

BY CRISTINA MIRANDA, FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

At first, scammers tried to get you to [wire them money](#). Then, they demanded payment with [gift cards](#). Now, scammers are luring people into paying them with [Bitcoin](#) – a type of digital money or [cryptocurrency](#). Read on to learn how to spot and avoid some of the top ways scammers are trying to get you to pay with Bitcoin.

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