



Top Tips for Holiday Shopping

It's the holiday season - the best time of the year. Whether you are buying holiday gifts in store, or you are among the 53% of shoppers who prefer shopping online, take some simple precautions to ensure you don't fall victim to online scams, identity theft, and porch pirates. If you have any questions, contact your broker today.

Online Shopping

- Make sure you are using secure internet and not free WiFi
- Shop on websites you are familiar with
- Conduct research and read reviews from people who have previously shopped on the site
- Make sure the site is security enabled; that means that it starts with https:// (without the s, it's not secure)
- If you need to create an account, make sure your password is unique, 12 characters long and a mix of letters and symbols
- Use safe payment options such as credit cards

Outsmart Porch Pirates

- When possible, avoid having packages delivered when you are not home
- Request a signature upon delivery. That way, if no one is home, the package will be taken to a secure depot for pick-up
- When possible, select in-store pick-up
- Use alternative addresses for delivery, such as your office or a friend's address, who is home during the day

In-Store Shopping

- Buy a card sleeve or RFID wallet to block individuals from scanning your cards as you walk by
- If you cannot access a RFID wallet, a few sheets of aluminum foil have the same effect
- Keep your wallet in a front-facing pocket of your outfit or in your purse, facing forward, to deter pickpockets



- Install security cameras and a video doorbell to monitor your porch
- If it is not possible to pre-arrange delivery or make alternative arrangements, provide delivery instructions on where to store the package when you are not home, such as in your backyard or under a bench

