

Scam Alert - Don't Let Scammers Spoil Your Holiday Season

The holidays should be a happy time filled with food, family, and friendship. Unfortunately, they're also a big season for fraud. The Better Business Bureau is warning holiday shoppers and donors to look out for these common scams:

Disreputable shopping sites

Be suspicious of sites offering electronics, popular toys, or luxury goods at prices that are too good to be true. Every year holiday shoppers pay for a supposedly great deal online but receive nothing in return. Always look for the BBB seal when shopping online and click on the seal to confirm it is legitimate. When purchasing items on auction sites, research the seller extensively and listen to your doubts if the deal doesn't sound legit.

Bogus charitable pleas

People tend to be more generous during the holidays, which creates a great opportunity for scammers to solicit donations to line their own pockets. Always research a charity before making a donation, particularly when receiving an online plea.

Phishing emails

Common phishing emails around the holidays include e-cards and messages pretending to be from companies like UPS or FedEx with links to package tracking information. Don't click on any links or open any attachments to emails coming from a questionable source. Keep in mind that typos and grammatical mistakes are common red flags of a phishing email. Also, make sure you have current antivirus software and that all security patches have been installed on the computer.

For more advice on being a savvy consumer this holiday season, visit www.bbb.org/us/consumer-tips-holiday.

