

FIVE TIPS TO ENSURE A SAFE HOLIDAY SHOPPING SEASON

- 1. Take Precautions when Making Holiday Purchases with a Smartphone.**
Before you think of making a purchase through an ad on Instagram or Facebook, or even downloading a coupon, perform an Internet search about the ad you received for words like “complaint” or “reviews” and you may uncover a scam related to the promotional offer.
- 2. Be Smart about Application Downloads.** Be cautious about what you are downloading and pay attention to details. Scammers have been taking advantage of those signing up for subscriptions by luring them into a short-lived free trial that then converts into an expensive, recurring expense.
- 3. Protect Children’s Identity on Gaming Consoles.** While children will be eager to play on their new console, be sure to review the rules and set up the system with them prior to them playing. It’s important to create a strong password that includes upper and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols. Make children aware that game masters will never ask for login information. Before purchasing a game online, make sure the URL of the web site begins with “https”; use a credit card instead of debit card. View more tips [here](#) for protecting your child while gaming.
- 4. Return Fraud.** Remember to take receipts out of your shopping bags when you are returning items. You can have personal information on those receipts that identity thieves can use to steal your identity.
- 5. Educate Tweens and Teens about Safe Online Shopping.** Teens will be shopping online this year to buy holiday gifts for friends and family. It’s a great time to encourage teenagers to get a head start in protecting themselves from identity theft. Educate them on how to protect their bank accounts by managing passwords and using anti-virus software or internet security software.

ABOUT SONTIQ

Sontiq, headquartered in Nottingham, MD, is a high-tech security and identity protection company arming businesses and consumers with award-winning products built to protect what matters most. Sontiq’s brands, [EZShield](#) and [IdentityForce](#), provide a full range of identity monitoring, restoration, and response products and services that empower customers to be less vulnerable to the financial and emotional consequences of identity theft and cybercrimes. Learn more at www.sontiq.com or engage with us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [YouTube](#).

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