

## Online Shopping Safety

- **Conduct research:** When using a new website for purchases, read reviews and see if other consumers have had a positive or negative experience with the site.
- **When in doubt, throw it out:** Links in emails, posts and texts are often how cybercriminals try to steal your information or infect your devices.
- **Personal information:** When making a purchase online, be alert to the kinds of information being collected to complete the transaction. Make sure you think it is necessary for the vendor to request that information. Remember, you only need to fill out required fields at checkout.
- **Use safe payment options:** Credit cards are generally the safest option because they allow buyers to seek a credit from the issuer if the product isn't delivered or isn't what was ordered.
- **Protect your money:** When shopping, check to be sure the site is security enabled. Look for web addresses with https:// indicating extra measures to help secure your information.
- **WiFi hotspots:** Limit the type of business you conduct over open public WiFi connections, including logging in to key accounts like email and banking. Adjust the security settings on your device to limit who can access your phone.
- **Unique account, unique password:** Having separate passwords for every account helps to thwart cybercriminals. At a minimum, separate your work and personal accounts and make sure that your critical accounts have the strongest passwords.