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Black Friday and Cyber Monday Online Shopping Advice

With the current Covid restrictions in place regarding non-essential shops being closed, we are aware that many more people have taken to shopping online this year.

As #BlackFriday and #CyberMonday are almost upon us, we wanted to share the below information to help you bag a bargain, rather than it cost you more than you might think!

Before you start shopping, please ensure that your devices are up date, as this is your first line of defence! And ensure that #passwords are unique, don't reuse the same password on different sites!

• Rule Number One – if the offer sounds too good to be true, it more than likely is! Goods may not exist, or they may be counterfeit - which could mean they are dangerous!

• To AVOID fake pages, DON'T click on pop up ads or links in emails or messages with offers – Search for the offer yourself on a browser – that way you won't end up on a scam fake page

• Stick to names that you're familiar with to avoid the fraudulent ones, and make sure you do some research first, check reviews etc.

• Don't make purchases on public #WiFi – it's often insecure and your details could potentially be intercepted. Use your mobile data instead or wait until you are connected to a safe connection.

• REMEMBER the green padlock and 'https' DOES NOT mean that the site is legitimate, just that data is securely transmitted – fraudsters use this to make you think the page is legit!

• When you're ready complete your purchase, that's when to double check for the green padlock and 'https' when checking out – this means that your data being

transmitted is encrypted.

• #Payments – use trusted payment methods such as PayPal – remember to check you are paying “Goods and Services” – if you change to “Friends and Family” you LOSE your PayPal Protection! Often, you have far more protection if you pay by Credit Card. If you are asked to pay by bank transfer instead, be very wary, as you have no protection at all!

• Beware of #phishing emails – these could be fake offers taking you to fake pages, or they may be regarding a purchase or delivery.

Make it a rule, NEVER log in to any account via a shortcut or link in an email or a text – log in the way you normally would! If you receive a suspicious email, don’t forget you can report it by forwarding to report@phishing.gov.uk. Suspicious text mesages can be reported by forwarding to 7726

• Watch out for those great offers posted on social media – fraudsters use social media to post very enticing offers, via fake websites, but these offers don’t exist! Your money will be paid, but your goods might never arrive. Be aware that just because a page is “sponsored” on Facebook, does NOT mean that it’s legitimate, they do not carry out checks!

For user friend, non technical cyber advice why not give us a follow on Facebook - Leicestershire Police Cyber Aware

For more info on online shopping and staying safe, please visit :
https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/black-friday-online-sales-advice
https://www.getsafeonline.org/safechristmas/

If you have unfortunately experienced fraud or online crime, please report to Action Fraud online at https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/ or by calling 0300 123 2040

#SafeShopping

Message Sent By
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