

Buy Smart. Don't Get Burned

Online Shopping Scams

In online shopping scams, fraudsters create fake websites, ads, or social media listings that offer popular items at unusually low prices. Victims place orders and submit payment, believing they are purchasing legitimate products. The items are never delivered or are counterfeit. The scammer's goal is to collect payment and disappear.

RED FLAGS

- Prices seem too good to be true.
- Websites with limited contact information or poor spelling and grammar.
- Requests for payment through gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency.

BE SCAM SMART

- Shop only from well-known and trusted retailers.
- Check reviews and website legitimacy before making purchases.
- Use credit cards for online shopping, which offer better fraud protection.

Non-Delivery Scams

In non-delivery scams, victims pay for goods or services that are never provided. These scams often occur through online



marketplaces, social media, or classified ads. The seller may stop responding once payment is made. The goal is to take payment without providing the promised product or service.

RED FLAGS

- Sellers who demand full payment upfront without buyer protection.
- Poor or no communication after payment is sent.
- Pressure to move the transaction off a trusted platform.

BE SCAM SMART

- Use secure payment methods that offer dispute resolution.
- Avoid paying outside of trusted platforms.
- Keep records of all communications and transactions.

Where to Report a Suspected Scam:

- Cyber-crime complaints (IC3): complaint.ic3.gov
- Bad business practices (FTC): reportfraud.ftc.gov
- FL Office of Inspector General: legacy.myfloridalegal.com/contact.nsf/contact?Open&Section=Citizen_Services
1-866-9-NO-SCAM
- U.S Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General: oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud
1-800-447-8477

