

5 Tips to Avoid HOLIDAY IDENTITY THEFT SCAMS

From



Protecting one's digital privacy is more important than ever. Technology has become an integral part of our lives, so much so that we rarely think to adjust the privacy settings on our devices to protect our digital identities. IDShield's Licensed Private Investigators have shared five ways to protect your privacy, whether you are surfing the internet, using voice assistants, or employing other devices.

Employ these 5 tips to protect your identity this holiday shopping season:

1. Use official retailer apps and websites. Criminals are savvy and will create lookalike sites. Be cautious and look for spelling errors and differences in logos and URLs.
2. Be mindful of clicking links in texts and emails that may look like package tracking URLs. While it may look like the tracking information for your package, it could very well be a "phishing" attempt to steal your data or install a virus.
3. Review your credit and debit card transactions and report any unauthorized activity immediately to the financial institution involved.
4. Be selective of the apps you download and check for software updates regularly from Microsoft Windows and Apple IOS, as they typically include security patches or enhancements that improve the security of your data.
5. If you use a public Wi-Fi network, consider installing a Virtual Private Network (VPN) on your device, encrypting your data and hiding your IP address.

If you paid for your purchase through a mobile payment app such as Venmo, Cash App, or PayPal and think the transaction may be fraudulent, visit The Federal Trade Commission website for guidance on correcting the problem: [How to avoid an online payment scam.](#)

IDShield provides enrolled participants with direct access to dedicated Licensed Private Investigators in the event of identity theft. This benefit also offers unlimited consultation on identity theft-related matters and real-time alerts of suspicious activity to enable you to detect and contain the damage quickly.

If you do not have IDShield, consider enrolling at your next opportunity.

Pre-Paid Legal Services, Inc. ("PPLSI") provides access to identity theft protection and restoration services through its product IDShield. IDShield plans are available at individual or family rates. A family plan provides monitoring services for eligible dependent children under the age of 18 of the Named Member or Named Member's spouse or domestic partner. Consultation and Restoration Services are available for eligible dependent children under the age of 26. For complete terms, coverage, and conditions, please see an identity theft plan. All Licensed Private Investigators are licensed in the state of Oklahoma. An Identity Fraud Protection Plan ("Plan") is issued through a nationally recognized carrier. PPLSI is not an insurance carrier. This covers certain identity fraud expenses and legal costs as a result of a covered identity fraud event. See a Plan for complete terms, coverage, conditions, limitations, and family members who are eligible under the Plan.