OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING



TIPS FOR SHOPPING ONLINE

1. Make sure you're getting a good deal

- Shop around by using price comparison sites and multiple search engines.
- When comparing prices, check that the advertised price includes everything you have to pay, for example tax, and delivery charges.

3. Know your distance selling rights

- Check your cancellation rights before making a purchase: under the Distance Selling Regulations (DSRs), you can get a full refund on many products if you cancel within seven working days after the day you receive the goods.
- If you wish to cancel, you must take reasonable care of the goods you are returning.
- If returning goods, you are entitled to a refund of the original standard delivery cost.
- Traders are not allowed to deduct a restocking charge or administration fee for returned goods.
- Check and keep all receipts, order confirmations and correspondence.
- Goods should be delivered within 30 days after the date of order, unless you agree to a different delivery timeframe.

2. Know who you're dealing with

- A trader might have a great website, but that doesn't mean it's law-abiding.
- Check the trader's details on their website, including their geographic and email addresses.
- Don't assume '.uk' means that the seller is based in the UK.
- Read all reviews and help others by writing reviews when you make purchases.
- Look for traders that are part of an independent approval scheme. Normally these are traders that have agreed to meet particular standards.

4. Protect your personal and financial information

- Use security software and keep it up to date.
- Look for a padlock symbol or 'https' in the website address before inputting personal details.
- ➡ If you use a credit card for purchases of £100 or more, you may get reimbursement from the credit card company if something goes wrong.
- Check your bank and credit card statements regularly and contact your bank immediately if you think your details have been disclosed.
- Check whether the trader has a privacy statement that tells you what it will do with your personal information.

The Citizens Advice consumer service provides free, confidential and impartial advice on consumer issues. Visit **www.adviceguide.org.uk** or call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on **08454 04 05 06**