

Five Tips for Avoiding Online Holiday Scams

During the holidays, scammers target users with amazing, mostly "too good to be true" deals.



Here are Intrada's five tips for avoiding online holiday scams:

1 Make Sure the Company is a Valid Company

Do your research and look up the company name on a search engine. If you can't easily find the company or the product on a valid website, there is a good chance it's a scam. And use extreme caution purchasing from social media ads like the ones on Facebook.



2 Don't Click

Don't click on links or attachments in emails you didn't request or sign up for. Phishing scams trick users into clicking on links to get coupons or other offers that seem extraordinary. Instead, confirm the source of the offer and go directly to the company website.



3 Research the Deal

Search on your favorite search engine for the deal you are interested in confirming; if it's a scam, it will usually show up from others to avoid, or with confirmation, it's a great deal.



4 Never Wire Money Directly to a Seller

If you are asked to wire money – it is a huge red flag. Also, avoid using prepaid gift cards. We recommend using a credit card and not your debit card.



5 Don't Assume Since You Purchased It That It's Coming

Keep the emails and monitor shipping to ensure you don't forget you ordered it. If you don't receive a confirmation email with a shipping status, contact the company for an update.



With anything online, sometimes the best deal is not a deal at all. You can trust people, but we recommend with a new company, **CONFIRM**. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is – per the FBI.gov website.