# With our tips, a safe online Christmas is a piece of cake.

GET SAFE ONLINE .org ®

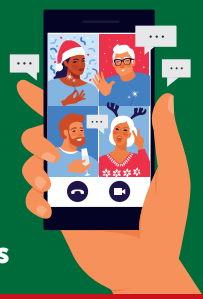
www.getsafeonline.org

# Your top tips for a safe online Christmas.

## You can find more information at **www.getsafeonline.org**

For many of us, the festive season is the most eagerly anticipated time of the year for adults and children alike. Traditionally a time of getting together with friends and family and giving and receiving gifts, Christmas and New Year now have a modern twist, thanks to online technology.

Whether it's shopping or socialising, playing games or watching a movie, the internet now has a major part to play in most people's Christmas. This makes it essential that we take precautions to protect ourselves, our families, finances and devices against online harms.



**#OnlineChristmas**

**If you think you've been a victim of a scam, report it to Action Fraud, on 0300 123 20 40 or at www.actionfraud.police.uk In Scotland, call 101.**

### Buying online

Learn how to spot the difference between genuine and fake websites, secure and insecure payment pages and authentic and counterfeit goods. Before you visit a website, check if it's likely to be legitimate or fraudulent using our **Check a website tool**.

Beware of texts claiming to be from a parcel firm telling you there's a 'delivery fee'. If in any doubt, **always call the organisation** on the number you know to be correct.

### Connected devices

Protect all new or second-hand internet-connected phones, tablets and computers with a **reputable security app/software**. Add a new **PIN or passcode** as soon as you power up. Ensure all devices are **backed up** automatically so you don't lose your precious documents and photos. Check **privacy and location settings** for new and existing devices ...that's yours and your family's.

Always set up new **passwords on internet-connected devices** like voice assistants, appliances, cameras, kids' toys and fitness watches, as soon as they're switched on. Using the factory-set default passwords could result in them being hacked. Always use different passwords for different devices, websites or accounts for the same reason. And remember ... **voice assistants** are designed to hear everything! Find more information about **setting up connected devices**.

### Updates

**Download updates** to software, apps and operating systems on all your devices as soon as you get notified. Better still, set them to update automatically. Otherwise, they could get infected by malware, leading to fraud or identity theft.

### Mobile apps

Download those new apps **only from official sources** such as App Store, Google Play or Microsoft Store. Getting them elsewhere could result in fraud or identity theft.

### Gaming

Avoid oversharing, griefing, in-game overspending and pirated games. Keep track of how much time you're spending online. **Keep an eye on your kids' gaming**, check on games' PEGI age limits and talk to them about who they're or playing and chatting with.

### Pre-owned mobile devices

**Do a factory reset** to erase your data if you're selling or gifting a computer, mobile device or console. You can find out how from the manufacturer's website. If you've bought or been given a used device, remove the previous owner's settings and data if this hasn't already been done.

### Oversharing

Make sure **what you share online** is respectful and doesn't reveal confidential, sensitive or embarrassing information about yourself or others, including family members and friends. If you're away from home, keep it to yourself, as social media is a burglar's best friend.

### Out & about

Don't use **Wi-Fi hotspots** in cafés, pubs, hotels, on public transport and other public places for anything confidential as they could be either insecure or fraudulent.

### Protecting your family

**Talk to your children** about being safe and responsible online, including what they share, who they're talking to and the type of content they access, including apps and games. Consider downloading a respected parental control app and using ISP content filters. Make sure your children aren't running up bills in games and other apps.

### Video calls

Make sure video calls are **safe and secure** by using a service that needs a strong password, and don't share the call invitation or details outside the person or group on the call.

**For more information on how to stay safe online this festive season, visit www.getsafeonline.org**

# Get Safe Online

Get Safe Online is the UK's leading source of information and advice on online safety and security, for the public and small businesses. It is a not-for-profit, public/private sector partnership backed by law enforcement agencies and leading organisations in internet security, banking and retail.

For more information and expert, easy-to-follow, impartial advice on safeguarding yourself, your family, finances, devices and workplace, visit **www.getsafeonline.org**


GET SAFE ONLINE .org

www.getsafeonline.org

OFFICIAL PARTNERS

TESCO
first direct
NatWest
HSBC
ROYAL AIR FORCE
ARMY BE THE BEST
Royal Bank of Scotland
M&S BANK
LLOYDS BANK
HALIFAX
BANK OF SCOTLAND
creativevirtual The science of conversation™
CITY OF LONDON POLICE National Policing Lead For Fraud
NPCC National Police Chiefs' Council
NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS eCrime Team
cifas The UK's Fraud Prevention Community
TO STOP FRAUD
EUROPOL EC3 European Cybercrime Centre
ActionFraud National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre actionfraud.police.uk
METROPOLITAN POLICE
Ofcom
VS VICTIM SUPPORT
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
neighbourhood ALERT
Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government