

From the Desk of Detective Dave

Halloween Tricks: Online Scams

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With Halloween looming around the corner now is a good time to raise your guard against potential scams. Statistically, Halloween is the second highest consumer spending holiday which is why thieves are primed and ready to scam you out of money and steal your identity.

Creating an online store is fairly simple and inexpensive making it attractive to thieves who want to steal from you. Soon, if not already, fake Halloween stores will begin to pop up on the internet using images from legitimate web merchants in an attempt to appear genuine. If you look close enough you'll likely find something that seems a little off or highly suspicious.

As with any legitimate online web store shopping cart (check out page), or secured web page, an "HTTPS" will be positioned in front of the web address. The "S" designates the page is secured. Example: <https://www.cabelas.com>. If a web store is asking for your personal and/or financial information and does not have the "HTTPS" designator be leery and consider using a different store.

When shopping online consider using a payment processing company such as PayPal, Google Wallet, etc. to mask your credit card information from the online seller. These companies typically offer fraud monitoring and purchase protection for their clients as well.

We hope these tips help you have a safe and happy Halloween!

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