

# ThinkUKnow e-Newsletter - December 2016

Shopping online can be ideal for Christmas — no long queues, no busy shopping centres and most of all, cheaper Christmas deals! While there are some awesome perks of online shopping, we all need to be mindful of what personal information we are giving out.

Approximately 87 per cent of Australians use the internet daily. This means, there are a whole lot of us who need to be aware of what information we are giving out online and the website we are buying from.

In 2015, Australians lost \$89 million to scams! It can sometimes be easy to forget about the scams people fall victim to all too often.

Christmas is a major time of year for scammers to strike, so we've put together a list of things for you to consider before clicking 'purchase'.

Even if you don't shop online, it is always good to keep the below tips in mind. Last year, 30 per cent of scams reported to Scamwatch were sent via email. Always be on the lookout for suspicious links!

## ThinkUKnow top tips

- If you haven't heard of the website or company before, do some quick research.
- Ensure websites you are using begin with https, or have a padlock symbol.
- Be aware of what information you are giving out when you are purchasing an item online. Does this website really need your birth date?

## Time2Talk

Report any suspicious online activity you have reason to believe is a scam to the Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network (ACORN) at <https://report.acorn.gov.au/>

- Ensure all of the security features and anti-virus on your devices have been updated.
- Never click on suspicious links on social networking sites or in your email inbox — even if they are from your friends.
- Use different passwords for different accounts, especially those which contain banking details. Use at least 8 characters, upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols.
- Remember, if an offer seems too good to be true it probably is!

For more information, check out these sites:

- <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/types-of-scams>
- <https://www.acorn.gov.au/learn-about-cybercrime/online-scams-or-fraud>
- <https://www.acorn.gov.au/learn-about-cybercrime/email-spam-and-phishing>

**Happy shopping and happy holidays from ThinkUKnow!**