

Holiday Fraud Alert: Top 5 Trends to Watch This Season



1 Fake Online Deals and Phishing Sites

What to Watch For: Unbelievable deals on popular holiday items, often advertised on social media or through email links.

How It Works: Fraudsters create fake websites or emails that mimic popular brands. Victims click on “deal” links, enter their payment info, and never receive the product.

Stay Safe: Verify URLs before shopping, avoid deals that look too good to be true, and shop directly from trusted websites.

2 Gift Card Scams

What to Watch For: Requests for gift card payments as part of a “deal” or “charity.”

How It Works: Scammers ask for payment in gift cards or sell discounted gift cards, only for buyers to find out later the card has no funds.

Stay Safe: Only purchase gift cards directly from retailers, and never pay with gift cards outside of official stores.



3 Fake Charities and Holiday Donation Scams

What to Watch For: High-pressure requests for holiday donations, especially from unknown organizations.

How It Works: Scammers create fake charities or impersonate well-known ones to collect donations, particularly around the holidays when people are feeling generous.

Stay Safe: Research charities on sites like Charity Navigator and donate only through trusted platforms or directly via the charity’s website.

4 Holiday Job Scams and Money Mule Recruitment

What to Watch For: Unsolicited job offers promising easy money for minimal work, especially involving money transfers or package reshipping.

How It Works: Scammers post fake job ads or send emails offering holiday employment. They trick individuals into transferring stolen funds or goods, making them unwitting “money mules” involved in money laundering.

Stay Safe: Be cautious of jobs requiring you to handle money or packages for others. Research the company thoroughly and avoid any job that asks you to use your own bank account for transfers.



5 Holiday Travel Scams

What to Watch For: “Exclusive” travel deals and urgent messages about airline cancellations or issues with your booking.

How It Works: Fraudsters send phishing emails or messages mimicking travel companies, prompting victims to provide personal information or make payments.

Stay Safe: Confirm travel deals with airlines or booking companies directly, and avoid clicking links from unverified sources.

Fraudsters exploit the holiday spirit and generosity of the season. Stay vigilant, double-check offers and requests, and keep your finances and personal information secure during this festive time!

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