

# Verify the "About Us" Page

Copy text from their description and Google it.

Same description appears on multiple sites? Avoid that store.

### Do the Same for the Contact Details

Run a quick online search for the listed email, phone number, and physical address.

Same details used for multiple sites? That's a big red flag.

#### Crowdsource Insights

Use platforms like Reddit and Quora to get more insights about user experiences.

Search for mentions of 'scam' or 'fraud' and get a feel for the site's reputation.

#### How New Is the Site?

Check how established a website is based on its launch date. Copy the domain name or IP address and perform a 'WhoIS Lookup'.

If the site is only a couple of months old, be VERY cautious.

### Don't Reuse Passwords

E-commerce sites frequently experience hacks. Attackers often test stolen passwords on other sites so <u>it's critical</u> to use a different one for every account.

## Stick to Credit Or Gift Cards

You may be reimbursed if you report fraud quickly. Avoid debit cards or bank transfers as they offer less fraud protection. Gift cards are ideal as they aren't tied to your personal information.

# Be Merry. Shop Safely.



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