

10 WAYS TO BE SAFER ONLINE

Winter is in full swing and we're spending more time indoors engaged with our phones, tablets, Smart TVs and other devices. It's important to take a minute to remember basic safety steps to protect ourselves and loved ones online. Here are 10 simple tips that can keep you safe online.

1. Make sure all your devices are updated and set to auto-update so you don't miss important fixes and updates.
2. Make sure all your tablets, smartphones and computers have anti-virus protection installed and active; set these to auto-update, too, to be protected from the latest threats.
3. Check that your privacy settings are set correctly on all your devices and sites you visit.
4. Make sure you use strong passwords and don't reuse your passwords. A password manager is a good way to generate strong passwords and keep track of them for you.
5. Enable two-factor authentication everywhere you can. This will help protect your account in case your password is ever leaked or compromised.
6. Be careful about sharing personal information. Once its posted, it's posted for life and there is no taking back. For example, never share your real birthday unless absolutely necessary. Your birthday is one of the keys to stealing your identity.
7. Watch out for phishing emails and avoid clicking on links in any emails you may be suspicious about.
8. The same goes for texts. Junk texts and phishing texts are a huge and growing phenomenon. Best practice: Immediately delete any texts that are from numbers you don't recognize.
9. Be careful with what you download and from where.
10. Be cautious when buying anything from social media sites.



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Hopefully these small tips will help you and your loved ones be safer online and have a more enjoyable experience. Until next time, take care.