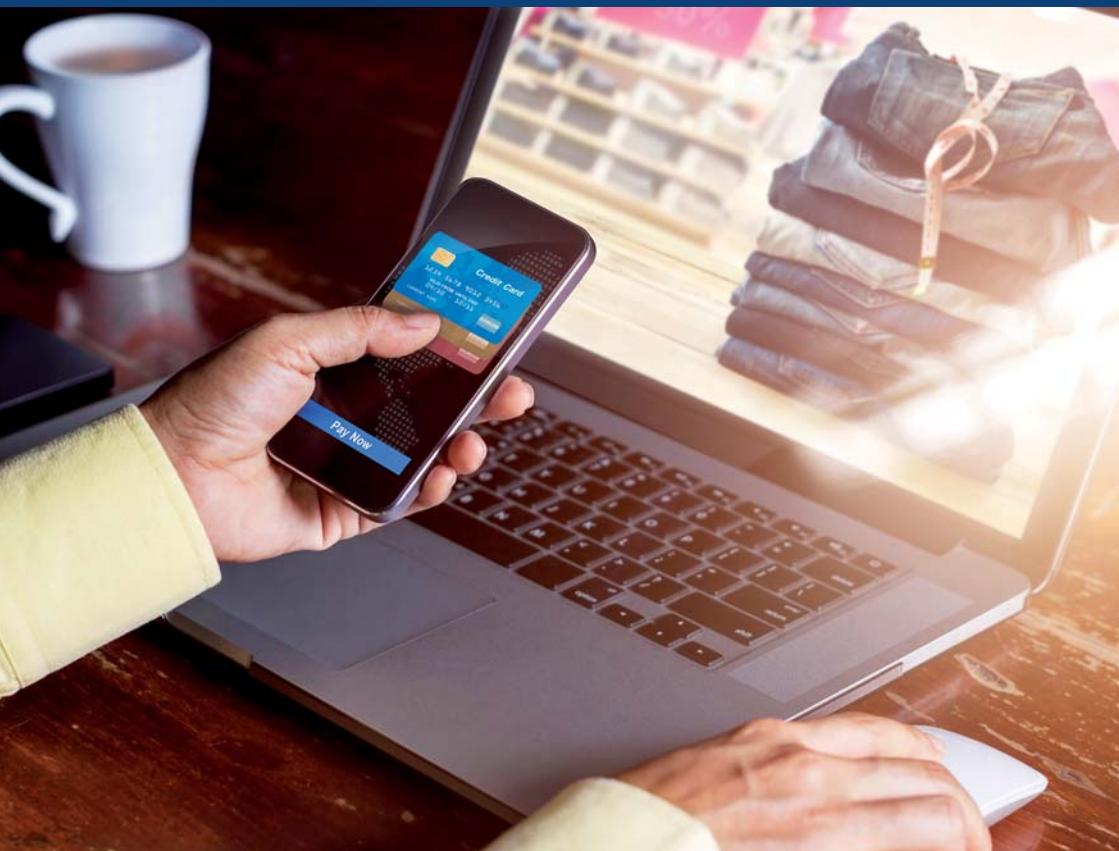




**ROYAL  
AIR FORCE**

**Online shopping: fast, easy, convenient.**



**Are you doing it safely?**



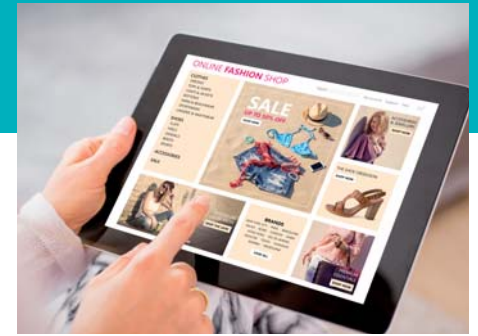
[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

Shopping online saves considerable time and footwork. It also gives you the widest choice, makes it easy to get all the information you need about what you're buying, and presents you with all the options. Better still, you can compare prices and sometimes find some real bargains.

But as with most things you do online, there are some risks.

## Check out our expert advice and make sure you don't make life easy for a fraudster.

- Criminals can set up convincing shopping websites very similar to the authentic one, with a very similar address. Ensure sites you use are authentic by carefully checking the address is spelled correctly. It's also safest to type in the address, rather than clicking on a link in an email, text or post.
- Check that payment pages are secure, with an address beginning with 'https' ('s' is for secure) and there's a closed padlock in the address bar. Even if this is the case, this just means the page is secure, and not necessarily that the site isn't fraudulent.
- Often, ads on social media and online shopping forums are fraudulent, and items non-existent or not as advertised. It's best not to part with any money – even a deposit – without seeing the goods at first hand.
- Don't pay for anything by transferring money to people or companies you don't know. If it's a fraud, it's unlikely that the bank will be able to recover or refund your money. Whenever possible, pay by credit card for additional protection.
- Log out of payment pages when you've completed the payment. Just closing it may not log you out automatically.
- Don't buy fake goods intentionally or get duped into buying them. They are of low quality, can be dangerous and contravene copyright law.
- Be wary of 'free' or 'low-cost' trials – whether slimming pills or the latest tech gadgets. You could be signing up for large monthly direct debits which are difficult to cancel.
- Never use your MoD email account to set up personal online store or other accounts.
- Avoid clicking on links in unexpected emails, texts or posts, or email attachments. With buying online being so popular, fake parcel firm delivery notifications are commonplace attachments or links: they could lead to fraud or identity theft.
- Download retailers' or auction site apps only from App Store, Google Play or Microsoft Store. Others could result in fraud or identity theft.
- Most of the above advice also applies to buying holidays and travel and event or sporting fixture tickets online.
- If you suffer a fraud through online shopping, it's very important to report it, both to Action Fraud and, if there is one, the actual, authentic website being impersonated.



# Get Safe Online

Get Safe Online is the UK's leading source of information and advice on online safety and security, for the public and small businesses. It is a not-for-profit, public/private sector partnership backed by a number of government departments, law enforcement agencies and leading organisations in internet security, banking and retail.



For more information and expert, easy-to-follow, impartial advice on safeguarding yourself, your family, finances, devices and workplace, visit [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)



[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

GET SAFE ONLINE: WORKING TOGETHER WITH...
