

# Stay Smart and Secure Online This Christmas With PDQ

Online shopping offers convenience but carries risks. Scammers are becoming more sophisticated, making it crucial to stay vigilant. Learn how to protect yourself and shop with confidence.



## Research Before You Buy

1 Read Reviews

Look for authentic customer feedback on independent review sites. Be wary of overly positive or negative reviews.

2 Check Company History

Investigate how long the seller has been in business. Established companies are often more reliable.

7 Verify Contact Information

Ensure the website provides a physical address and working phone number. Test them if unsure.





## Navigate Safely Online



Avoid clicking on unfamiliar links in emails or advertisements. This reduces the risk of phishing.

#### Check for HTTPS

Look for the padlock icon in your browser's address bar. It indicates a secure connection.

#### Use Bookmarks

Save trusted websites as bookmarks for quick and safe access in the future.

1

2

3

## Be Cautious of Social Media Deals

#### Verify Seller Profiles

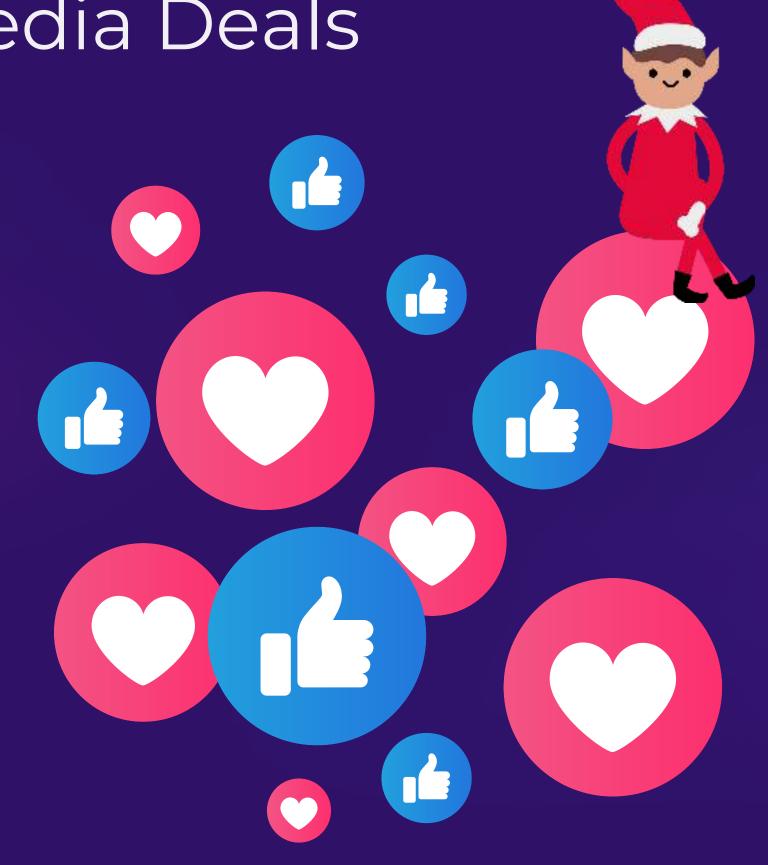
Check the seller's profile for consistent posting history and genuine interactions. Be wary of newly created accounts.

#### Cross-Reference Prices

Compare prices with official retailers.
Unusually low prices may indicate
counterfeit goods or scams.

#### Trust Your Instincts

If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is. Don't let FOMO cloud your judgement.



## High-Value Purchases: Inspect in Person

Arrange Safe Meeting

Choose a public place for the exchange. Many police stations offer safe zones for online transactions.

Bring a Friend

Having someone with you adds an extra layer of security and a second opinion.

Verify Item
Authenticity

Research how to spot fakes beforehand. Bring tools if necessary, like UV lights for banknotes.





## Beware of Influencer Recommendations

#### Research Products Independently

Don't rely solely on influencer endorsements. Look for unbiased reviews from multiple sources.

## Check for Sponsorship Disclosures

Influencers should clearly state if they're being paid to promote products. Be cautious of hidden ads.

## Compare with Official Retailers

Verify if the recommended product is available from authorised sellers at similar prices.



## Avoid Pressure Tactics



#### Limited-Time Offers

Don't rush into purchases. Genuine deals rarely disappear within minutes.



## oOO

## Fast-Selling Warnings

Be skeptical of "Only 2 left!" messages. These often create false scarcity.



#### Take Your Time

Legitimate sellers understand the need for careful consideration before making purchases.



## Use Secure Payment Methods

Payment Method	Safety Level	Reason
Credit Cards	High	Offer purchase protection and easy dispute resolution
PayPal	High	Provides buyer protection for eligible purchases
Gift Cards	Low	Often used in scams, no protection if fraud occurs
Bank Transfer	Low	Difficult to recover funds if scammed



But most importantly....

## Enjoy our shopping and have a very merry Christmas!

www.pdq.co.uk







01277 633533



PDQ House 16 Radford Crescent Billericay Essex CM12 0DG

