

FIVE TIPS TO ENSURE A SAFE HOLIDAY SHOPPING SEASON

1. Take Precautions when Making Holiday Purchases with a Smartphone.

Before you think of making a purchase through an ad on Instagram or Facebook, or even downloading a coupon, perform an Internet search about the ad you received for words like “complaint” or “reviews” and you may uncover a scam related to the promotional offer.

2. Be Smart about Application Downloads.

Be cautious about what you are downloading and pay attention to details. Scammers have been taking advantage of those signing up for subscriptions by luring them into a short-lived free trial that then converts into an expensive, recurring expense.

3. Protect Children’s Identity on Gaming Consoles.

While children will be eager to play on their new console, be sure to review the rules and set up the system with them prior to them playing. It’s important to create a strong password that includes upper and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols. Make children aware that game masters will never ask for login information. Before purchasing a game online, make sure the URL of the web site begins with “https”; use a credit card instead of debit card. View more tips [here](#) for protecting your child while gaming.

4. Return Fraud.

Remember to take receipts out of your shopping bags when you are returning items. You can have personal information on those receipts that identity thieves can use to steal your identity.

5. Educate Tweens and Teens about Safe Online Shopping.

Teens will be shopping online this year to buy holiday gifts for friends and family. It's a great time to encourage teenagers to get a head start in protecting themselves from identity theft. Educate them on how to protect their bank accounts by managing passwords and using anti-virus software or internet security software.

About EZShield

EZShield helps trusted partners protect their most valuable asset — their customer relationships — through secure, digital identity protection and resolution services that enhance the value of existing products. The company is consistently recognized by Javelin as a [leader in Identity Protection](#). Owned by the Wicks Group of Companies, L.L.C., EZShield supports thousands of [financial institutions](#) through its [award-winning](#) solutions, delivered on a secure, flexible platform that is backed by best-in-class customer support. Follow EZShield on [Twitter](#), become a fan on [Facebook](#), engage with us on [LinkedIn](#), and join us on [Google+](#). Learn more at [www.ezshield.com](#).

About IdentityForce

In [August 2018](#), IdentityForce was acquired by EZShield, a portfolio company of [The Wicks Group](#) (“Wicks”) and the leader in digital identity protection and resolution. For 40 years, IdentityForce, Inc. has provided best-in-class, highly scalable, award-winning identity theft, privacy and credit protection solutions to consumers, businesses, and government agencies. With IdentityForce, members benefit from the most robust and [award-winning](#) identity protection, going as deep as [Dark Web monitoring](#) to keep personal information safe. Follow IdentityForce on [Twitter](#), become a fan on [Facebook](#), engage with us on [LinkedIn](#), and join us on [Google+](#). Learn more at [www.identityforce.com](#).