

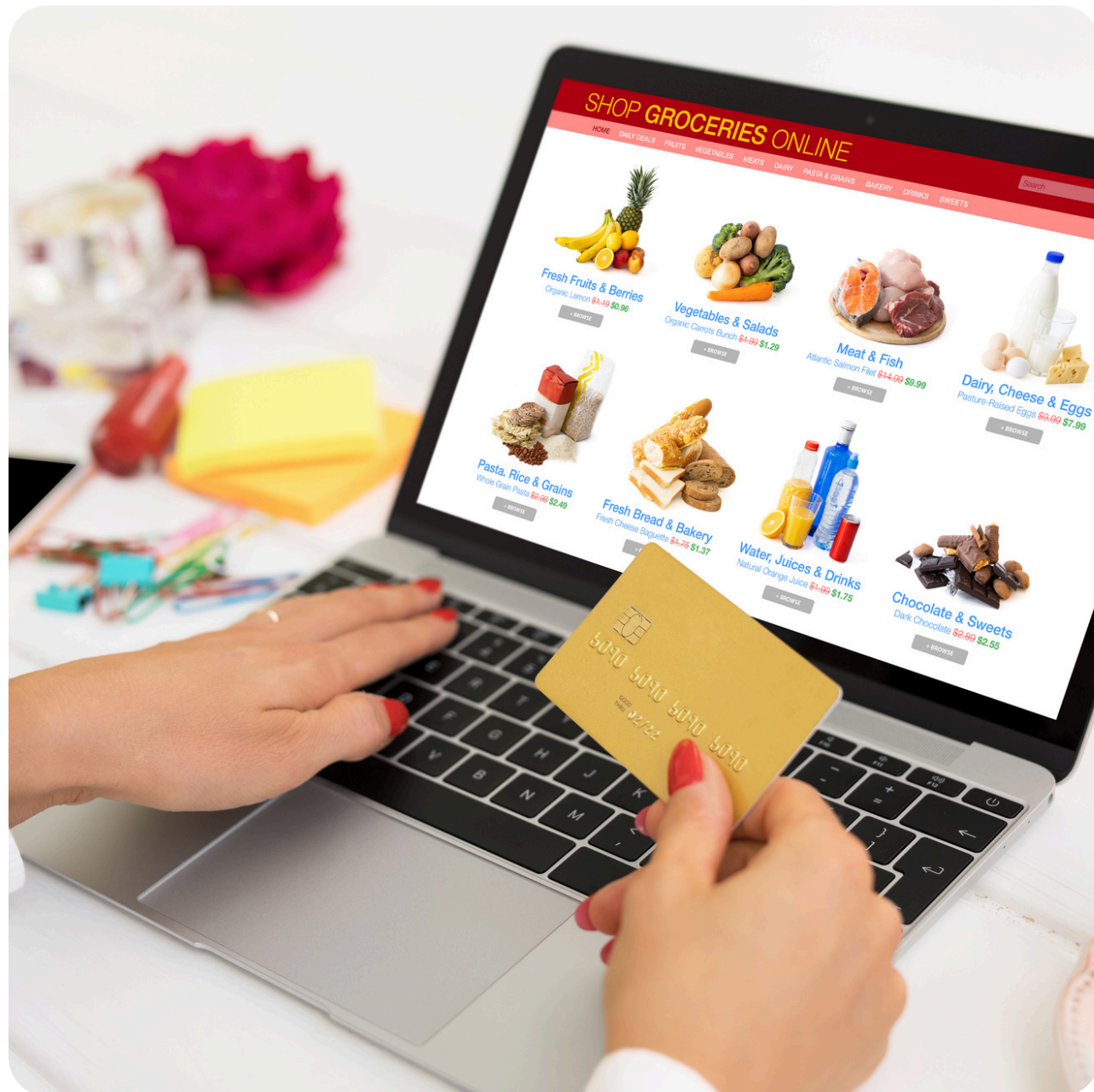


Danger signs when online shopping



Good Things
Australia

Introduction



Online shopping is incredibly convenient, but it is important to stay cautious. Fake websites and dishonest sellers can look very real at first glance, so learning how to spot a dodgy online store is a vital skill.

By keeping an eye out for a few common danger signs, you can protect your hard-earned money and personal details from scammers.

Warning signs

Below are some warning/danger signs you might see when online shopping:



The prices are too cheap:

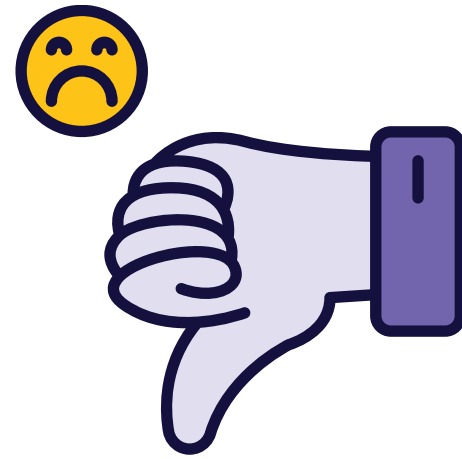
If a website is selling brand-new designer clothes, expensive phones, or popular gadgets for a tiny fraction of their normal price, it is almost certainly a scam.



Missing security symbols: Always look at the website address bar before you type in your bank details. If you do not see a little padlock icon, or if the web address starts with "http" instead of "https", the site is not safe and your information could be stolen.

Warning signs

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A lot of negative reviews: Search the name of the website online alongside the word "reviews" before you buy anything. If you see lots of complaints about items never arriving, poor quality products, or terrible customer service, do not use the site.



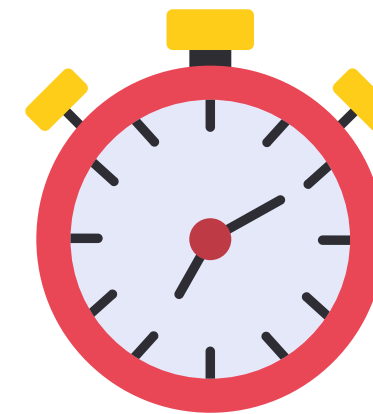
Strange ways to pay: Safe online stores will always let you pay with secure options like credit cards or PayPal. If a site demands that you pay by direct bank transfer, cryptocurrency, or pre-paid gift cards, leave the website immediately.

Warning signs

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No clear contact information: Real businesses want you to be able to reach them if there is a problem. Look for a "Contact Us" page that lists a real address, an email, and a phone number. If the site doesn't, it is a major warning sign.



Rushing you to buy: Watch out for countdown timers, flashing text, or messages saying that stock is running out or that a sale is ending in minutes. Scammers use these tricks to panic you into buying before you have time to think clearly.