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Chilton shop manuals online

Back in the not-too-distant past, people in search of gifts were required to shower, dress and brave the cold wind and irritated fellow shoppers to choose holiday gifts. A hearty deal seeker eagerly awaited the store's opening on Black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving) as idling engines wait to ignite. Children flipped through toy store catalogs like doe-eyed vending machines, making them conspicuously open to some sites in the hope that the catalog would somehow accompany their parents to the mall. It was an ugly, brutal time. Uncertainty reigned. The aid would arrive in the late 1960s, when computer scientists at the U.S. Department of Defense created ARPANET - the forerunner of the Internet. We didn't know it at the time, but holiday shopping will never be the same again. We didn't have to go to the store anymore! Instead, companies have opened virtual stores online. Consumers could make their purchases day or night, politely dressed or completely naked. Advertising Like most paradigm shifts, the advent of online shopping has brought about changes in the status quo. In shops, you only need to guard your wallet to ensure its safety; not so online. It's exponentially easier to enforce your coincidence through temporary seasonal help to return items in stores. Again, it's not that online. In this spirit, HowStuffWorks has set out five simple tips for online shopping. Let's start on the next page. Content When shopping online, plastic is the preferred payment method. However, you must be aware that your credit card number is static. That doesn't change if you close and reopen your account, and once your credit card information is online, it may be compromised if it gets into the wrong hands. There are some measures online customers can take to minimize their risk. First of all, it is to ensure that all online purchases are made only in secure locations. To make sure that the page you're on is secure, look for the small padlock icon, usually located in the upper-right corner of the browser's URL bar. You can also see if a site is secure by looking with the URL. While unsecured sites and pages start <http://>, secure sites start <https://>. Advertising Some web browsers now have larger certificate windows that are easier to read and allow users to explore site information more thoroughly. For example, if you plan to search for online purchases using circuit city's secure website, but the site name on the page certificate doesn't match, direct and alert the city of the district to the problem. Never send account numbers or any other personal information via an email that is not secure [source: FTC]. For the same reason, you should never access the website to buy [source: Consumer Reports]. Now, how should you pay for all those loot? Find out on the next page. Shopping online is is with plastic, but some plastics are better than others. It is advisable to use only credit cards, rather than debit cards, for online shopping. Credit cards represent an extension of credit, while debit cards draw directly from your bank account. Once you have bank information, hackers can do far more damage to your finances than with your credit card number. Under the Fair Credit Invoicing Act, consumers are protected in the event of identity theft or fraud - if they use a credit card. This law protects account holders by limiting their liability for fraud to \$50. Payments for unauthorized credit card fees may also be deferred and investigated [source: FTC]. Even better, most credit card companies sometimes limit consumer responsibility for fraud to zero. Using a debit card provides you with some federal protection as well. If you notify your bank of a fraudulent debit card purchase within two days, your liability is limited to \$50; after that it increases to \$500 [source: Bankrate]. Advertising Most credit card companies now offer one-time credit card numbers for online shopping. These expire after one purchase and only your credit card company knows which account it is affiliated with. Using just one credit card for online shopping is another great way to ward off potential online shopping headaches [source: Consumer Reports]. If you have one credit card number sent through cyberspace, the potential for fraud is limited to that single account. If a hacker comes by your account information, you'll only have that credit card company to wrestle with. Online shopping could eventually mean the death of a physical retail store, but even if that happens, one thing will be constant: the store. It will always be necessary to store huge quantities of goods and employ people in the warehouse of these warehouses. Until robots take their jobs, warehouse employees will need salaries for the work they do. Paying a person to load, package, and ship items you have purchased online is already built into the seller's expense. But if you return an item, it still needs to be repackaged and replaced, even if the company has no money from the return. As a result, online retailers began charging fees for recharging returned items. Advertising This is a reasonable requirement, but some recharging fees are easier to swallow than others. While some retailers charge up to 25 per cent or more, a fee of 15 per cent of the price you paid for the item returned has become customary for heavily packaged products such as electronics. Before proceeding to checkout, check out the seller's return policy, which should be explicitly listed somewhere on its website. Simply packaged such as books and unopened DVDs should not cost you any money to return. Similarly, if you return the product because erroneous, you should not expect to pay any refund fee. However, if you have damaged the product's UPC code or serial number, do not bother to return it. You can try to recover some of what you paid by listing items on Craigslist or eBay. Online shopping presents consumers with a wonderful new advantage - the ease of bargain hunting. Before buying over the internet, finding the lowest price per item meant perusing catalogs and circulars, traveling from store to store or hitting yellow pages for call sprees. Not so much anymore. Check out sites like CyberMonday.com (Cyber Monday is the retailers' online version of Black Friday) to get hooked with online stores. Other sites, such as NexTag.com, allow you to compare the shop. There are also entire blogs - MightyGoods.com and FindGift.com are great places to enjoy online shopping chops - dedicated to aggregating gift lists. Often, however, a simple Google search for the item you want will bring even better deals. For a more targeted search, turn into a new Google product search page (formerly known as Froogle). Ad Search discount pages as Overstock.com for an item you want before buying elsewhere. These retailers purchase surplus items which producers could not unload at other retailers at a discount and generally pass on the savings to customers. Don't be afraid of buying refurbished items either - that's often just another word for excess inventory [source: Allentown Morning Call]. Tab browsing further paves the way for online stores to be found. When checking out, do not pass the online coupon code bar. Open another tab or window and quickly find the salesperson coupons available on other sites, such as FatWallet.com and CurrentCodes.com. You can come up with a coupon you didn't know existed just by having a few extra seconds for a quick search. Many stores will happily provide you with their own promotional codes if you sign up for their email newsletters. Enter the code before check-out to take advantage of the savings. Keep in mind that it's just a small sample of bargain-hunting sites on the web. You may have your favorites, but no one would blame you for keeping your shopping secrets to yourself. If there is one big downside to online shopping, it's the misery of waiting for your order to be shipped. The sooner you do your shopping, the greater the chance of arriving on time. Under federal law, retailers must deliver goods within specified deadlines (e.g. three to five days for standard shipping) or within 30 days if no shipping date is specified in the transaction. To reduce shipping charges, try ordering many items at once from one retailer. Your purchases should be summed up in one large package with one shipping charge They are registered on an online retail site, cookies uploaded to your computer will keep all items in your online shopping cart until you delete or purchase them, allowing you to deliver everything at once - and at one price. Many online retailers offer free shipping on purchases over a certain dollar amount, and online coupon sites regularly offer free shipping coupon codes. Advertising If you can't catch a break for shipping, ordering early enough will allow you to opt for standard shipping. It's almost always the slowest, but if you order early, you have time on your side. Give yourself a little more time if you're ordering from a third-party retailer through a large online retailer. The delivery date of a retail location is an estimate that the vendor does not always meet. To learn more about online shopping approaches and outs, check out the links to the next page. Is this the way to pay for the future? No cash, no credit card, just your smartphone and your finger? Learn how Square works at HowStuffWorks. Anderson, Tania. Tips for making Black Friday not so scary. Washington Post. November 20, 2007. Gregory, Refurbished electronics can save you money. Allentown morning call. November 9, 2008. 0,809636.storyKavilanz, Parija B. Holiday gift returns: still nothing simple. CNN. December 26, 2006. cards. Bankrate. May 1, 2006. returns; new rules require new tactics. Consumer Reports. January 2008. deal! 5 surprising tips on how to keep yourself well? MSNBC. November 29, 2007. Safe Shopping. Federal Trade Commission. February 2008. Welcome to IE-Vista. Microsoft Valuable Professional. October 11th, 2008. 6 tips for safe online shopping. National Consumers League. Accessed November 18, 2008. online bugs. Consumer Reports. September 2008. 2008.

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