

Edmonton RCMP – Good Deals Shopping Online, But Be Safe!

Edmonton, AB – The number of people shopping online has steadily grown over the years as has the methods of using the internet to sell and buy products and services. Those who list items to sell and those who buy them do so for a variety of reasons; it's easy, quick and the internet is readily available through any number of "smart" devices and computers.

While these qualities may make internet commerce an attractive way to do business, the RCMP would like to remind people to keep their safety in mind when buying and selling online:

- Be aware that the picture of an item listed for sale on line may not be the actual item. Ensure that the description is accurate, that the person selling the item has the authority to do so and that there are not any hidden "fees" or costs.
- If meeting someone to view an item for sale, try to arrange to do so in a public place during daylight hours and bring a friend or family member along.
- Always tell someone where you are going and when you'll be back if going to see an item for sale.
- When meeting a seller, do not get out of your vehicle until you feel secure and are confident that you are meeting with the person with whom you arranged the viewing.
- If you have one, bring your cell phone with you and have someone call you during the transaction to ensure that you are safe.
- If having people over to your home to view an item you have for sale, always have a friend with you, try to do so during daylight hours and ask the buyer for identification.
- Finally, if the deal sounds "too good to be true", it most likely is!
- If you wish to learn more about identifying a fraud or online scam go to, <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/scams-fraudes/index-eng.htm>.

Shopping online can be a rewarding and fun experience whether you are buying or selling and by remembering these few safety tips, you can ensure that it continues to be so.