



SAFETY TIPS FOR BUYING OR SELLING ONLINE

Meet at a police station—Meet in a public place or the parking lot of a police station to make your transaction, it adds an extra layer of security.

Bring backup—Never meet someone you don't know by yourself. Bring a friend or family member with you. This lessens the likelihood of being attacked.

Only bring enough cash for the purchase—If a seller demands an online transfer or payment before you meet to get the product, don't do it. Also, never carry large amounts of cash with you.

Don't give out your personal information—Since you will be meeting someone at a public place, there is no need for a buyer or seller to know your home address.

Never use your real email address—Protect your actual email address from spammers and scammers by using a proxy email address, if available.

Remove geotags from pictures before you post them—If you take a photo of an item to sell on Craigslist, be careful. Photos taken with a GPS-enabled smartphone may have the physical location of where you took the picture embedded in the EXIF metadata, which is part of the picture's file header.

Most importantly—TRUST YOUR GUT—If the deal seems too good to be true, it probably is. Also, if anything the seller or buyer says raises a red flag, it's probably best to go with your instincts and move on.