



Ins & Outs of Online Shopping

November 10, 2011

Skokie Public Library

Security & Payment

- Better Business Bureau <http://www.bbb.org/us/article/shopping-safely-online-407> *Tips for safe shopping.*
- BillMeLater www.billmelater.com/index.xhtml *Preregister for online credit & pay without using a credit card. A division of PayPal.*
- FTC Consumer Advice ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/tech/online.shtm *Protect personal information from fraud.*
- PayPal www.paypal.com/ *Pay online securely by linking credit or debit card to your PayPal account.*
- PrivacyChoice.org www.privacychoice.org/ *Learn about opt-out & browser privacy protections.*
- SafeShopping.org www.safeshopping.org/ *American Bar Association information for safe online ordering.*
- Forbes article on privacy scams:
<http://www.forbes.com/2010/04/08/shopping-amazon-paypal-technology-security-scams.html>

Opinions & Reviews

- Amazon.com www.amazon.com/ *Customer reviews solicited for products Amazon sells.*
- CNET.com www.cnet.com/ *Tech product reviews, news, & price comparisons.*
- Consumer Reports www.consumerreports.org/cro/index.htm *Ratings, reviews, & expert buying advice.*
- Consumer Search www.consumersearch.com/ *Collects consumer reviews, analyzes them, & recommends.*
- Consumers' Checkbook www.checkbook.org/ *Nonprofit ratings of local service providers. Available in the library.*
- Epinions www.epinions.com/ *Consumer-generated reviews, buying tips & advice.*
- ShopSmart.org <http://shopsmartmag.org/> *Consumer Reports light. Product reviews & recommendations.*

Comparison Shopping

- Bizrate.com www.bizrate.com/ *Search wide range of products, compare prices. Offers coupons.*
- Bottomdollar.com www1.bottomdollar.com/ *Shopping comparison for electronics & other items.*
- Consumer Reports www.consumerreports.org/cro/index.htm *See price & shop options for some products.*
- MySimon www.mysimon.com/ *Comparison shopping for wide range of products.*
- Pricegrabber.com www.pricegrabber.com/ *Compare prices on computers, electronics & other items.*
- Shopzilla www.shopzilla.com/ *Compare prices & read reviews of a wide range of products.*
- Findthebest.com www.findthebest.com/ *Make informed buying decisions in many categories.*

Search Engine Comparison Shopping

- Yahoo! Shopping <http://shopping.yahoo.com/> *Read reviews, compare prices, shop.*
- Google Product Search www.google.com/products *Search products by name or model, get prices.*
- Bing Shopping www.bing.com/shopping *Read reviews & compare prices from selected vendors.*

Find Discounts & Coupons

- RetailMeNot.com www.retailmenot.com/ *Search for coupons for online & local stores.*
- MyCoupons.com www.mycoupons.com/ *Coupons for groceries, merchandise, local & online shopping.*
- Redplum.com www.redplum.com/ *Coupons for groceries, restaurants, merchandise & online shopping.*
- CouponMountain www.couponmountain.com/ *Coupons & discounts for online & local stores.*
- FreeShipping.org www.freeshipping.org/ *Coupon codes for free delivery.*
- Bradsdeals.com www.bradsdeals.com/ *Top 100 deals, coupons, sales & promotions.*
- Restaurants.com <http://www.restaurants.com/> *Discount coupons for restaurants.*

Daily Deal Websites

- Groupon.com www.groupon.com *Daily deals from local businesses sent to your email box.*
- Buy.com www.buy.com *Computer & tech items. Offers daily & weekly deals.*
- LivingSocial.com http://subscribe.livingsocial.com/cities/6?ref=broader_roadblock&skippable=1
Daily deal for discounts at local restaurants, bars, spas, theaters.

Favorite Online Retailers!

One stop shopping- they have it all!

- Amazon.com www.amazon.com/ *You name it, Amazon sells it from electronics to groceries. #1 Staff pick.*
- eBay www.ebay.com/ *Buy & sell almost anything. Used & new items.*

Overstock www.overstock.com/ Name brand products at discount prices.

Apparel & Sporting Goods

Alight.com www.alight.com/ Trendy plus size women's fashions.

Bluefly www.bluefly.com/ Designer clothing, handbags, accessories & shoes.

Lands End www.landsend.com/ Apparel, outerwear & home goods.

REI & REI Outlet www.rei.com/ Outdoor & sporting goods, free shipping to store. 365 day returns.

Sierra Trading Post www.sierratradingpost.com/ Outdoor & sporting goods at discount prices.

Zappos.com www.zappos.com/ Shoes, clothing & accessories. Free shipping, both ways. 365 day returns.

Other Specialty Categories – Books, jewelry, drugstore & cosmetics, eyeglasses, TV shopping networks

Abe Books www.abebooks.com/ Used, new, rare & out-of-print books.

CafePress.com <http://www.cafepress.com/> Unique T-shirts & gifts.

Beauty.com www.drugstore.com/beauty.asp?catid=9730 Make-up, skincare, bath, & hair care.

BlueNile www.bluenile.com/ Diamonds & fine jewelry.

HSN www.hsn.com/ TV's Home Shopping Network site. Brand names, discount prices.

Peebers www.peeperspecs.com/ Large selection of fashionable reading glasses.

Warby Parker www.warbyparker.com/ Cool glasses. Donate a pair for every pair they sell.

Zenni Optical www.zennioptical.com Prescription eyeglasses. Cheap!

Cooking & Food

Chefs www.chefscatalog.com/ Cookware, upscale brands.

ChefShop.com <http://chefshop.com/> Artisan foods, recipes, food articles, serving suggestions.

Cooking.com www.cooking.com/ Cookware, tableware & housewares.

Prepara.com www.prepara.com/ Unique kitchen gadgets.

Shopworldkitchen.com www.shopworldkitchen.com Popular brands, Corningware, Corelle, Pyrex....

Sur la Table <http://www.surlatable.com/> Upscale cookware, tabletop & food.

Williams Sonoma www.williams-sonoma.com/ Upscale cookware, tabletop & food.

Wine.com www.wine.com/ Buy wine online.

Fun & Unique Items

Etsy www.etsy.com/ Art Co-op. Buy & sell handmade jewelry, clothing, art, furniture. Staff fave.

GreaterGood.com www.gretergood.com/ Websites protecting "the health of people & the planet."

GreenwithGlamour www.greenwithglamour.com/ Go green, stay stylish. Eco friendly gifts, home items.

Lego.com www.lego.com/en-us/Default.aspx Lego toys.

Red Envelope www.redenvelope.com/ Unique & personalized gifts.

ThinkGeek <http://www.thinkgeek.com/> Fun, geeky pop culture stuff.

Threadless www.threadless.com/ T-shirts designed & chosen by users.

Geeky, Tech Stuff – Computers, Cameras, Audio, Video...

CNET.com www.cnet.com/ Tech product reviews, price comparisons, videos, & podcasts.

Computer Geeks geeks.com /Tech related items. Deals & free shipping.

J&R.com www.jr.com/ "Creating the need for power strips since 1971."

Home Décor

Art.com www.art.com/ Posters, art prints, original art & framed art.

Ballard Designs <http://www.ballarddesigns.com/> Furniture & decorator items such as rugs, mirrors, lighting.

Chiasso www.chiasso.com/ Modern design home furnishings.

Crate & Barrel www.crate&barrel.com/ Home décor, furniture & housewares.

Home Decorators www.homedecorators.com/ Furniture & home décor.

West Elm www.westelm.com/ Contemporary furniture & accessories.

Entertainment

Gold Star <http://www.goldstar.com/chicago> Discounted theater & event tickets.

Hot Tix <http://hottix.org/> Half-price theater tickets.