More and more people are using the internet to purchase goods. It is an easy way to shop as within a few clicks a product can be purchased and then arrive a few days later at your doorstep.

However you need to know how to stay safe online while shopping.

The following tips may help you:

- Only use a protected computer. Make sure your computer has up to date antivirus software and a firewall installed.
- Keep your credit cards and card details safe in the real world. Most internet fraud happens because card details are stolen in the real world and used online so keep them safe at all times.
- Only shop at secure websites. Ensure that the security icon, the locked padlock, is showing in the bottom of your browser before sending your card details. The beginning of the retailer's internet will change to 'http**s**' when a purchase is made using a secure connection.
- Install the latest version of Internet Explorer for added security features.
- Check your credit card statements carefully when you receive them. If you find a transaction on your statement that you did not make contact the credit card company or bank immediately.
- Never go to a banking site via an email. Only bank online by going to the banks online address by typing it into your browser.
- Either consider using an internet only credit card or join PayPal which is a third party. PayPal is one of Australia's favourite ways to pay online. It is fast, easy and safe.
- Save a copy of your receipt when you shop online - that way you have all the details you need later. Often websites will send you tracking emails letting you know when the product was dispatched and when it will arrive.
- Shop at reputable sites. Many real world stores now have online stores.

Something to remember…if it looks too good to be true it probably is.