

SAFETY TIPS

Selling or purchasing items via social media marketplaces or online sale sites can be a great way to buy local and save money. While the majority of people buying and selling on these sites are offering real items, there is a small percentage of individuals who are looking to take advantage of buyers. We want you to be smart about your buying so here are some ideas and tips to look for:

- **Meet in a safe, public place.**
Somewhere where there will be other people around like a restaurant or retail area. Do not go to their home or invite them to your home, meet at an intersection, or a secluded location. If the individual refuses to meet at a public location – do not accept their excuses.
- **Take someone with you if you can.**
Or at least let someone know where you are going.
- **Do not give any personal information** other than an email address or a phone number necessary for contacting one another.
- **Always have your cell phone.**
- **Do not carry a lot of cash.**
Bring only the money needed for the transaction. Leave your wallet or purse in your car trunk. If you are asked to deposit a check, money order, or hold money via a third-party escrow service – you are likely being scammed. Someone using money order, gift cards, or cashiers checks is also a red flag.
- **Be especially careful when buying or selling items of high value.** Does the price seem “too good to be true?” Then it probably is. Also be wary of posts that use stock photos of items.
- **Look for anything out of the ordinary.**
Check for things like a scratched off serial number or personal etchings on the item. It may indicate it could be stolen.
- **Trust your instincts.** If it doesn't feel right, leave!

E-COMMERCE EXCHANGE ZONES



Consider meeting at one of the three E-Commerce Exchange Zones provided by the Saint Paul Police Department. These designated areas are under 24-hour video surveillance. These zones are located at:

Central District
367 Grove Street
651-266-5628

Eastern District
722 Payne Avenue
651-266-5565

Western District
389 North Hamline Avenue
651-266-5512

REPORT A CRIME



Call **911** when a crime is in progress or you need an immediate officer response.



Call **651-291-1111** to request an SPPD response in a non-emergency situation.



File an **online police report** by scanning the **QR code** or visiting **stpaul.gov/police**.

