SECURE OUR WORLD

CYBERSECURITY & INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY CISA

# ONLINE SAFETY TIPS FOR OLDER ADULTS

Being online helps us keep up with current events, connect with friends and family, manage finances and more. Take these steps to ensure a safe and secure experience!

## Lock your devices

Use a passcode, fingerprint or facial recognition to unlock phones or tablets. This keeps prying eyes out and helps protect our info if the device is lost or stolen.

## Keep apps and software up to date

Software updates improve a device's security and functionality. Stop clicking "Remind me later." Let's enable our devices to automatically update.

## Create strong passwords

Strong passwords are long (16+ characters), random and unique for each account. Use a password manager to generate, save and fill in strong passwords, so they don't need to be remembered.

## Adjust default settings

Privacy and security settings on new devices may not be strong, so change them. Options to control what information is shared are under the "Settings" option on the device. Now we can control what data is shared and how others can interact with our profiles.

## Share with care

The more personal details we post on social networking sites, the easier it may be for a scammer to steal our identities, access our data or commit other crimes. And just because a website asks us for our address, photo or mother's maiden name doesn't mean we have to provide it!

## Consider photo details

Before posting a picture online, think about what details may reveal. We don't want to inadvertently share details like where we live, our daily routines or even places we frequently visit with strangers.

## Be cautious with links and attachments

Most scams start with links and attachments in emails, texts, online ads and social media posts/messages. Don't click on links or download anything that comes from a stranger or that was unexpected.

## Know that people may lie about their identity

Criminals can easily disguise their identity to appear trustworthy—even masquerading as friends or loved ones. We should only accept friend requests from people we know personally—and never send money or sensitive information to anyone we haven't met in person.

## Stay calm

Scams often rely on us having a quick, emotional reaction and responding to the request. So be cautious with messages that sound urgent and ask for sensitive information. Don't respond right away. Instead, contact a trusted source to verify the request. Ask for help if needed.

## Look out for this automatic red flag

If someone insists on payment by wire transfer or gift card, it's a scam. End the conversation immediately!

## When in doubt, reach out for help.

Scammers are tricky. We can all be fooled. It's important that we let someone know if something doesn't feel right or we made a mistake. If we act quickly and talk to someone, we can get help and even fix what happened.

Taking these steps helps
**Secure Our World.**

**We can all help one another** so share these tips with a family member or friend!

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