Avoid Online Fraud

Before you take out that credit card for your online shopping, take a moment to consider how you can protect yourself from fraud.

First, shop at sites you know and trust. Don't click on links in emails or that you see on message boards, as they may send you to an official-LOOKING site, but one that's under the control of hackers. Next, make sure any site on which you're entering your credit card information begins with "https," meaning, it's a secure site.

Try to avoid having the site store your credit card information. You don't need any more reminders on the evening news about how hackers can find their way into such databases and make off with your information. Finally, keep all your receipts, and check them against your credit card statement to make sure there are no unexpected charges.

Happy… and safe… shopping!