

Online Shopping for the Holidays

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Overview

- Reviewing Products
- Comparing Prices
- Sharing Wish Lists
- Charitable Giving
- Shopping Tips

Reviewing Products

- User and Expert Reviews
 - [Epinions.com](#)
 - [Ratings.net](#)
 - Vendor sites (Amazon, Buy.com, etc.)
- Subscription Services
 - [Consumer Reports](#)
 - [Consumers' Checkbook](#)
 - Gift Suggestion: web subscriptions

Comparing Prices

- **RoboShopper**: Searches the sites below
 - PriceGrabber
 - MySimon
 - Froogle
 - Yahoo! Shopping
 - NexTag
 - Local Stores
 - Yokel.com
 - Froogle Local
 - ShopLocal.com

Comparing Prices

- Shopzilla
- BizRate
- Ask.com Deals
- Bing! Shopping

Don't Forget eBay!

- Frequently, the best deals are on **eBay**
 - Not captured by shopping engines
 - Always check seller's rating
 - Look carefully for additional charges such as shipping and handling, insurance, etc.

Charitable Giving

- Charity Ratings
 - Charity Navigator
 - Charity Watch
 - Combined Federal Campaign
 - DC Metro Area
- More Information
 - Philanthropy Tips from infoplease.com
 - Wise Giving Alliance (BBB)
- Gift Cards
 - JustGive.org

Sharing Wish Lists

- Vendor lists ([Amazon.com](#), [Buy.com](#), etc.)
 - Usually vendor-specific
- Universal lists
 - [Wishpot.com](#)
 - [Wishbin.com](#)
 - [YourListOnline.com](#)
 - [ListIdeas.com](#)
- Social Networking sites
 - Use your [Facebook](#), [MySpace](#), blog page

Shopping Tips

- Only use a credit card
 - Watch you statements
- Establish an e-mail account specifically for online shopping
- Beware of unsolicited offers by e-mail
- Beware of web site pop-ups
- Keep a copy of all web receipts
- More at
 - <http://www.privacyrights.org/fs/fs23-shopping.htm>
 - <http://www.bbb.org/us/article/shopping-safely-online-407>

Summary

- Research before you buy
 - Don't rely on a single web site
- Take vendor ratings into account
 - Return policy
 - Responsiveness
 - Online or local store support
- Include shipping and handling costs in price comparison