

Consumer Advice: How to Avoid Phishing Scams

The number and sophistication of phishing scams sent out to consumers is continuing to increase dramatically. While online banking and e-commerce is very safe, as a general rule you should be careful about giving out your personal financial information over the Internet.

A list of recommendations that you can use to avoid becoming a victim of these scams.

- Be suspicious of any email with urgent requests for personal financial information
- Phishers typically include upsetting or exciting (but false) statements in their emails to get people to react immediately
- They typically ask for information such as usernames, passwords, credit card numbers, social security numbers, date of birth, etc.
- Don't use the links in an email, instant message, or chat to get to any web page if you suspect the message might not be authentic
- Instead, call the Company on the telephone, or log onto the website directly by typing in the Web address in your browser
- You should only communicate information such as credit card numbers or account information via a secure website or the telephone
- Always ensure that you're using a secure website when submitting credit card or other sensitive information via your Web browser

Additional consumer advice is available at http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/scams/phishing_e.htm.

Contact us at employ@bcit.ca