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## Halloween Fake Shops



### How the scam works:

Halloween is the second most consumer driven holiday, nipping on the heels of Christmas in terms of how much money is spent each year. Experts say real nightmare scams can occur if shoppers aren't careful.

The focus of these scams are the pop-up Halloween online stores, the here today, gone tomorrow costumers that show up on the Internet each October.

The Better Business Bureau receives countless complaints each year regarding these fly-by-night operations, committing to sending you your costume overnight. The majority of the complaints center on websites not delivering merchandise in a timely manner, if at all. The storefront operations most cited complaints were of the poor quality of merchandise and the difficulty of obtaining refunds.

**How to avoid:** When trying a new or unfamiliar online store, find out the company's physical address and telephone number then check the Better Business Bureau's website at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

Find out their return and refund policies before any purchases are made. When shopping at a physical location ask about their intended closing date to ensure you have time to return any unused merchandise after Halloween. Many of these shops close up immediately after Halloween, so be aware of this.

Also check the policy regarding shipping times; is there a money back guarantee if your purchases arrive late? Federal law mandates that any goods and services purchased online or from catalogs be shipped within 30 days of purchase unless the vendor specifically states differently. Lastly, be vigilant about giving credit card and other personal identifying information on secure sites only. If the web address's prefix doesn't begin with "https" do not purchase from the site.

**Make your friends and family aware of this scam by sharing it, using the buttons provided**

<http://scam-detector.com/social-networking-scams/halloween-shops>