

MONEY MANAGEMENT

Protect Yourself Online

(NAPSA)—Internet fraud is on the rise but it can be easy to protect yourself if you heed these hints.



Keep your personal information safe in cyberspace.

Be sure any Web site you visit is secure before submitting personal information. Be suspicious of any unsolicited e-mail. Many scammers will send an e-mail claiming to be from a government agency or financial institution and then attempt to steal your bank account number, Social Security number or credit card information. In some cases, clicking on a link that looks legitimate may direct you to a fraudulent Web site where crooks try to trick you out of your personal data. Remember two things: No government agency or bank will contact you out of the blue and ask for your personal information; and just because something is on the Internet, that doesn't make it legitimate.

Anyone can set up a professional-looking Web site for the sole purpose of taking money from your pocket. For more information, visit www.AmericasCommunityBankers.com/consumer.