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Being Safe on Craigslist

Craigslist has become the number one go to source for all things, rather your job hunting, in need of a home or a video game that you can't find anywhere else. Craigslist is a trusted source to accommodate these needs. Although the company has been around since the mid 90's it did not gain its current popularity until the year 2000 when the company went from an email distribution list of local events to a web based service. Craigslist popularity did not come without a price. The more popular the site has become the more cautious its visitors have to be.

Maintain cyber decorum would be rule number one. Never ever give out your personal information such as credit card numbers, email addresses or phone numbers. Scammers love trusting people and the reality of searching on such a site is there are people looking to prey on trust. Craigslist actually provides the option to use a proxy e-mail address. By doing this you never have to give out your personal email address.

Shop local whenever possible, and if at all possible take along a friend. Scammers are less likely to show up to a place if they have no real product to show. It's a financial inconvenience and it's harder to scam a person if you're standing right in front of them. Also meet them a well-lit, public place. A mall or local grocery store is always a great option.

Living in the era of the smart phone, many things have become oblivious to most consumers. And one of those would be the GPS tracking on your phone. Most phones come equipped to automatically show your geometrical location. Make sure you turn this feature off before posting any pictures on Craigslist. This will make it harder for scammers to find your exact location and keep you safe.

Ultimately shopping on Craigslist saves money, time and energy. But it still requires a certain level of responsibility. Be careful with your personal information and do not trust too easily, be smart about location and most importantly save, shop and have fun.

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