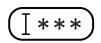**TIP #1:**

CHECK YOUR DEVICES

Before making any online purchases, make sure the device you're using to shop online is up-to-date. Next, take a look at your accounts and ask, do they each have strong passwords? And even better, if two-factor authentication is available, are you using it?

Protect your devices by keeping the **software up-to-date**. These include items like mobile phones, computers, and tablets, **but also appliances, electronics, and children's toys.**

Once you've purchased an internet-connected device, **change the default password** and **use different and complex passwords** for each one. Consider using a password manager to help.

Check the device's privacy and **security settings to make sure you understand how your information will be used and stored.** Also make sure you're not sharing more information than you want or need to provide.

Enable automatic software updates where applicable, as running the latest version of software helps ensure the manufacturer is still supporting it and providing the latest patches for vulnerabilities.

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